Tuesday, April 28, 2026 No 117 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Kejriwal boycotts judge who refused to recuse in Delhi excise case

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Washington dinner shooting suspect charged with Trump assassination attempt P.12

World

Michael Jackson biopic tops North America box office P.12

World

Hafiz Saeed's aide Sheikh Afridi shot dead P.12

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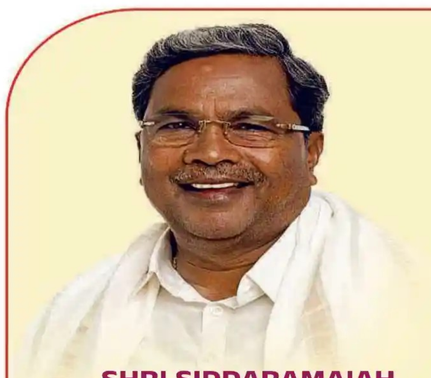
Govt refutes fuel shortage reports P.11



SHRI SIDDARAMAIAH
HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER

Department of School Education & Literacy

SHRI D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
HONOURABLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

ADMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

You can enroll your children in any class.

This is the Government's
EDUCATION GUARANTEE

Karnataka Model School Education!!

3 In 3 years, ours will be the best government school system in the country!!!

FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ITS SCHOOLS:

Government schools offer more than free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, mid-day meals, and milk! **This year has seen a huge rise in results!! An even bigger improvement in government schools and colleges!!!**

8 STEPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

THESE ARE THE EDUCATION GUARANTEES.

Guarantee 1
No more teacher shortage: one teacher per class up to Grade 5, and subject-wise teachers from Grade 6 onwards.

Guarantee 2
Medium of instruction as parents prefer: Along with Kannada, English medium is available in all schools; teachers receive special training to teach in English.

Guarantee 3
Free transport facility: KPS students are provided free transportation.

Guarantee 4
Digital education: Computer learning from Grade 1 and AI from Grade 3; computer teachers will be appointed in all KPS Schools within 3 years.

IN THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
A HISTORIC RISE IN EXAM RESULTS.

SSLC Exam-1
94.10%

2nd PUC Exam-1
86.48%

Guarantee 5
Art and physical education: Dedicated teachers for music, art, and physical education; recruitment of physical education teachers begins this year.

Guarantee 6
Relief from non-academic work: Separate staff for non-teaching tasks; teachers can focus only on teaching.

Guarantee 7
Monitoring learning quality: Lesson Based Assessment system to track each child's progress, and mandatory parent–teacher meetings every two months.

Guarantee 8
Skill Education and Competitive Examinations training: Skill Education from Grade 6 and special coaching for competitive examinations.

When are these changes being introduced?

Some key changes will take effect starting this year itself, and you will begin to see the transformation within 2–3 years.

What is our five-year goal?

Our government school system will be the best in the country! **This is our guarantee!!**
Over 5 million children will enroll in government schools! **This is our resolve!**

We welcome all your suggestions

We seek everyone's support and welcome suggestions from education experts, organisations, and parents on this Karnataka model of education reforms. Your suggestions will help us improve our services and address internal and external challenges.

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

Better learning
A Brighter future

What is the new KPS concept? Scan here!

To share your views and suggestions...

Email: edkarnataka@gmail.com | WhatsApp Number: 94489 99314

ShalaShikshanaKarnataka

KSPCB to issue closure notices to five Koppal factories

KOPPAL, DHNS: A meeting of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has decided to issue closure notices to five factories in the taluk for allegedly polluting the environment and violating the norms.

Accordingly, the notices would be issued to Allanagar's Hospet Ispat Private Limited, Vanya Steels unit 1 and 2, HRG Alloys and Steels Private Limited of Hirekasanakandi and P Balasubbashetty Power and Steels Company of Halavarthi.

Jilla Bachao Andolana Samiti and Parisara Hitharakshana Janti Kriya Vedike members have been staging a stir seeking quick action against the polluting factories for 179 days.

The villagers, who are facing problems due to the pollution, are also staging a protest.

In 2024, the officials of the Bengaluru regional office of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, following a direction from the ministry, visited the villages around the factories and submitted a report stating clearly that they are violating the norms.

The Board has taken note of this as well in the notice. Board's Chairperson P M Narendraswamy had visited the spot and inspected the situation.

International Tours

OUR GUARANTEE

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF
₹ 20000 + ₹ 5000/- ADD ON
Conditions apply*

Your stay must be in luxury branded hotels during International tours

Adigas prefers quality over price. So, no compromise in food and stay

Don't bypass the world's wonders just because of the price tag. With Adigas, every iconic landmark is included in your package.

Special discount Offer announced for a particular period.
Hurry up.. Don't miss this Golden Opportunity

01 Australia — 13 DAYS
SYDNEY, Blue Mountain, MELBOURNE, Phillip Island, Great Ocean Road, CAIRNS, Kuranda, Great Barrier Reef, GOLD COAST, BRISBANE.
Dates : AUG 16*, 30. SEP 13, 27. OCT 4, 18. NOV 8, 15, 22. DEC 6, 13.
70222 59008

02 New Zealand — 10 DAYS
Auckland - Rotorua - Queenstown - Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook & Aoraki National Park, Lake Pukaki - Fiordland National Park, Lake Te Anau, Eglinton Valley, Mirror Lakes, Hollyford River, Homer Tunnel & Mitre Peak, Wildlife Spotting, Christchurch.
Dates : AUG 28*. SEP 11, 25. OCT 9, 16, 30. NOV 20, 27. DEC 4.
70222 59008

03 Kailash Manasa Sarovara Yatra — 10 DAYS
By Helicopter & Flight
✓ NEPALGUNJ – SIMIKOT - NEPALGUNJ BY FLIGHT
✓ SIMIKOT – HILSA - SIMIKOT BY HELICOPTER
✓ CHINA - TIBET PART BY COACH
Dates : JUL 4, 12, 25*. AUG 2, 10, 24. SEP 1, 9, 18, 22.
70222 59003

04 Australia & New Zealand — 22 DAYS
Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook, Christchurch.
Dates : AUG 16*, 30. SEP 13, 27. OCT 4, 18. NOV 8, 15, 22. DEC 6.
70222 59008

05 England & Europe — 9 / 13 / 16 DAYS
England, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican.
Dates : AUG 11*, 25. SEP 15, 29. OCT 13, 27. NOV 10.
70222 59008

06 Singapore -Malaysia-Thailand — 4 / 5 / 8 / 12 / 16 DAYS
Singapore: Universal Studios, Sentosa Island, Cable Car, Gardens by The Bay, Singapore Oceanarium, Bird Paradise, Predators on Wings, The Karsts, The Cavern, Giant Panda Forest, Tram Ride, Night Safari. Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur City Tour, Batu Caves, Genting Highlands, Putrajaya. Thailand: Pattaya tour, Coral Island, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Bangkok City Tour, Safari World, Marine Park.
Dates : JUN 4, 18. JUL 2*, 16. AUG 6, 13, 20. SEP 3, 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10.
74833 66378

07 South Africa — 10 DAYS
Sun City, Pilanesberg, Mabula, George, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, Cape Town, Table Mountain, Hout Bay, Seal Island, Chapmans Peak Drive, Penguins at Boulders Beach.
Dates : AUG 16, 30. SEP 20, 27*. OCT 4, 18. NOV 8, 15, 22. DEC 6, 13.
702225 9008

08 Bali - The Land Of Gods — 5 / 7 / 9 DAYS
Denpasar, Nusa Penida Island, Kintamani, Ubud, Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, Tanah Lot, Beratan Lake, Ulun Danu, Taman Ayun, Tanjung Benoa Beach, Uluwatu, Besakih, Tirta Empul, Lempuyang Temple, Tirta Gangga, Kings Palace, Bat Caves Temple.
Dates : MAY 4, 11, 18. JUN 1, 15. JUL 6, 20. AUG 3, 17. SEP 7, 14, 21*. OCT 5, 12, 26. NOV 2, 9, 16, 23. DEC 7, 14.
93641 04366

09 Vietnam - Cambodia — 4 / 6 / 7 / 10 / 12 DAYS
Vietnam: Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Halong Bay, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ba Na Hills, Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi Tunnels. Cambodia: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, Tonle Sap, Thousand Lingas River.
Dates : MAY 14, 21. JUN 4, 18. JUL 9, 23. AUG 6, 13, 20. SEP 10, 17, 24*. OCT 1, 15, 29. NOV 5, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10
93640 88424

10 Nepal-Mukthinath -Janakpur — 5/9 DAYS
Lumbini, Pokhara, Jomsom, Muktinath, Phewa Lake, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Doleshwar Mahadev, Janakpur etc.
Dates : MAY 7, 21. JUN 4, 18. JUL 9, 23. AUG 13*, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 1, 22, 29. NOV 12, 26.
70222 59007

Basavanagudi 080 – 26616678
Malleshwaram 080 – 23346678
Rajarajeshwari Nagar 080 - 2669 6678
Vijayanagar 080 - 23356678
Hubballi 0836 – 2256678

K. Nagaraja Adiga
Founder, Adigas Yatra

Adigas Yatra

+91 94494 78944
www.adigasyatra.com
News Website : www.adigasyatranews.com
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Edu expenses not static, can't be set to rigid upper limit: HC

'Artificial capping will be contrary to children's welfare'

BENGALURU, DHNS

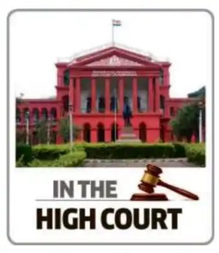
The high court has said that the educational expenses are not static and cannot be subjected to a rigid upper limit.

The court said this while directing a Bengaluru resident to bear all educational expenses of his two minor sons who are staying with their mother.

"The expenses towards education depend upon the fee structure prescribed by the particular institution, including tuition fees, transport charges, books, uniforms and other incidental charges. Therefore, any artificial capping of such expenses would be contrary to the welfare of the children," Justice K Manmadha Rao said.

The couple got married in 2006 and relocated to the United States of America. In 2022, a dispute arose about the husband's alleged infidelity.

The husband moved the family court seeking custody of his two minor children and restitution of conjugal rights, while the wife sought dissolution of marriage, pending before the family court.



The husband moved the high court challenging restricted visitation rights, and the wife sought enhancement of maintenance.

At an interlocutory stage, the family court had awarded Rs 40,000 per month as interim maintenance, Rs 60,000 as educational expenses and another Rs 25,000 towards litigation expenses.

It was argued on behalf of the wife that the family court had failed to direct payment of educational expenses at actuals directly to the educational institution and instead fixed an inadequate amount.

The husband claimed that the family court had granted limited visitation rights, for three hours on the first and third Saturdays of every month in the visitation room of the family court.

After perusing the material, Justice Manmadha Rao noted that if the children are studying in a particular institution, the father is bound to bear the actual educational expenses as demanded by the institution.

"Payment of educational expenses directly to the school authorities ensures transparency and continuity in the education of the children. However, such a payment cannot be treated as a substitute for maintenance."

"Educational expenses and maintenance operate in distinct spheres. While educational expenses cater to schooling, maintenance addresses the day-to-day sustenance and well-being of the wife and children. Both are independent and must be provided for adequately," the court said.

It redetermined Rs 15,000 per month to each of the minor children and Rs 40,000 per month to the wife, in substitution of the consolidated amount awarded by the family court, while maintaining the direction regarding payment of educational expenses at actuals.

The court further said, "The contention that the visitation arrangement is insufficient to foster meaningful bonding cannot, in the facts of the present case, be a ground to interfere at this stage."

"The arrangement made by the Family Court is only an interim measure, subject to variation upon change in circumstances or upon further material being placed on record."

"It is always open to the parties to seek modification before the Family Court, which is empowered to revisit the arrangement in the best interests of the children," the court said.

Gadkari directs full monsoon preparedness for NHs in Karnataka

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday directed officials to ensure full preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season in Karnataka.

The minister instructed them to implement all necessary preventive measures and strengthen response systems to maintain road safety, structural integrity, and smooth traffic flow on the state's highway network.

Gadkari conducted a detailed review of the quality and maintenance of the 7,926km of national highways crisscrossing Karnataka, based on feedback received from media reports and social media platforms.

The review meeting, held in New Delhi, was attended by Ministers of State for Road Transport and Highways — Ajay Tamta and Harsh Malhotra — along with senior officials from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and project contractors.

Gadkari conducted a detailed review of the quality and maintenance of the 7,926km of national highways crisscrossing Karnataka

Gadkari stressed the importance of timely project execution, strict adherence to quality standards, and the use of advanced technologies to build sustainable and efficient highway infrastructure, according to an official statement.

He also issued firm directives for complete monsoon preparedness, emphasising proactive steps and robust emergency response mechanisms to ensure road safety, durability of structures, and uninterrupted traffic movement across the highway network, the statement said.

BRAVING SUMMER HEAT

A woman, selling bamboo baskets, waits for customers under the shade of an umbrella, in Kalaburagi on Monday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

TDP supporters disrupt comedian's show over old jokes on AP CM Naidu

BENGALURU, DHNS

The show of Hyderabad-based stand-up comedian Sarat Uday was disrupted in the city on Saturday, allegedly by supporters of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) over his old jokes on party leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his son and Minister Nara Lokesh.

Despite Uday apologising two years ago for the jokes, the self-proclaimed supporters barged into his show in Koramangala around 7 pm seeking a fresh apology. The CCTV camera footage of the confrontation has since gone viral on social media.

The footage showed a man approaching Uday as soon as he began his act. The man claimed to be a fan but "objected to the old jokes on the leaders". A few others joined the man, creating a threatening atmosphere.

They also allegedly questioned Uday's remarks about an assassination attempt on Naidu in 2003.

Uday was also asked to raise slogans, which he refused. After reportedly threatening Uday, the group dispersed.

Police sources told *DH* that the comedian was not keen on pursuing the matter, and hence, no formal case was registered.

Party condemns act

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has condemned the disruption of a stand-up performance by comedian Sarat Uday in Bengaluru, describing the incident as unacceptable and inconsistent with democratic conduct.

TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao said that objections to any form of expression must be addressed strictly through due process.

"In a democracy, dissent must operate within the framework of law. Taking matters into one's own hands is unacceptable," Rao said.

He warned that such actions distract from substantive issues and risk sending the wrong signal to society.

Rao urged party cadre to maintain discipline and avoid confrontational behaviour, emphasising that restraint is essential to preserving institutional credibility.

At the same time, the party expressed concern over what it termed a pattern among some stand-up performers of targeting political figures for visibility.

"Comedy is meant to entertain, not provoke discord or undermine social harmony," Rao observed.

He added that deliberate attempts to disparage political leaders for attention reflect a lack of accountability and can aggravate tensions in the public sphere.

Reiterating the party's position, Rao advised its workers to refrain from reacting to provocation and to pursue grievances only through legal channels.

Rao cautioned that any deviation from this approach could damage the party's reputation.

PALLA SRINIVASA RAO
TDP state president

"In a democracy, dissent must operate within the framework of law. Taking matters into one's own hands is unacceptable.

Girl goes missing from house, love jihad alleged

HAVERI, DHNS

The parents of a young woman, who has gone missing from the house on the day of her engagement on March 25, alleged love jihad and lodged a complaint with Adur police in the district on Sunday.

The girl is from a Hindu family in a village in Hangal taluk, while the youth, Ibrahim Negaluru, is a Muslim and native of Naregal village.

Suspecting that the youth has taken away the girl after alluring her, the parents have urged the police to trace the youth and protect their daughter.

The police also came to know that Ibrahim too was missing from the house.

Marriage

The girl had completed B Com and was going to work in Akki Alur in the district. Her family had decided to get her married and accordingly found a groom.

The marriage was slated to be held on May 11.

Recently, they had also decided to conduct engagement on Saturday and preparations were on. However, on the day of engagement the girl has gone missing from the house.

The sources in the police said that there was information that the duo were in love and that Ibrahim had come near the girl's house and took her away.

The police have registered a case and a search has been launched to trace the duo.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Bhuvneshwar completes his 20th 3-wicket haul in IPL, second behind Jasprit Bumrah (25)

Royal Challengers hand Delhi capital punishment

RCB's fast bowlers **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** and **Josh Hazlewood** breathe fire early on, leaving **DC in tatters at 8/6**

Delhi Capitals bowled out for **75**, the lowest score in this IPL

- Bhuvneshwar takes his 29th wicket in the first over of IPL, three short of leader Trent Boult
- When Delhi Capitals were 7/5, it was the second lowest score at the fall of the 5th wicket in IPL

13/6 DC also post the lowest Powerplay score in IPL

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/5) Josh Hazlewood (4/12)

RCB then chase down the target in just **6.3 overs** to consolidate their second-place position (12 points) in the table.

Suyash Sharma finishes with figures of 4-1-7-1, making it among the most economical 4-over spells in the IPL

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Iran offers to open Hormuz Strait if US lifts blockade

Tehran proposes dealing with N-programme later

CAIRO, AP

Iran has offered to end its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the US lifting its blockade on the country and an end to the war, while proposing that discussions on the larger question of its nuclear programme would come in a later phase, two regional officials said on Monday.

US President Donald Trump discussed a new Iranian proposal but seems unlikely to accept the offer, which was passed to the Americans by Pakistan and would leave unresolved the disagreements that led the US and Israel to go to war on February 28.

With a fragile ceasefire in place, the US and Iran are locked in a standoff over the strait. The US blockade is designed to prevent Iran from selling its oil, depriving it of crucial revenue.

The strait's closure, meanwhile, has put pressure on Trump, as oil and gasoline prices have skyrocketed ahead of crucial midterm elections, and it has pressured his Gulf allies, which use the waterway to export their oil and gas.

The proposal would push off negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme to a later date. Trump said one of the major reasons he went to war was to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

The two officials, who had knowledge of the proposal, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations between Iranian and Pakistani officials this weekend.

It came as Iran's foreign minister visited Russia, which has long been a key backer of Tehran. It is unclear what, if any, assistance Moscow might offer now.

Iran's ability to choke off traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, has proved one of its biggest strategic advantages in a war that has often boiled down to which side can take more pain.

Oil prices have risen steadily since the war began and tankers full of crude became stranded in the Gulf, unable to safely transit through the strait and reach global distribution points.

▸ Iran, Page 6

SALVAGING TALKS

- Iran looking into Trump's request for negotiations, says foreign minister
- Trump to hold talks on Iran with security team
- Putin meets Iran's FM Araghchi, says Russia ready to do its best
- Araghchi calls his Islamabad visit 'successful'
- France's Macron to talk to Iranian authorities
- Germany's Merz says Iran is humiliating US

> If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us. You know, there is a telephone.
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> US President

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz in Musandam, Oman on Monday. REUTERS

Iran fires at ship with Indian crew

A Togo-flagged chemical tanker, MT Chiron-7, carrying 17 Indian crew members, was intercepted and fired upon with warning shots by the Iranian Coast Guard near the coast of Oman on April 25. All 17 Indian crew members are reported to be safe.
Details on Page 11

Transfers: Govt plans 'taint points' for sub-registrars

Officials with fewer points can eye prime locations

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Monday notified draft rules for counselling-based transfers of sub-registrars, proposing demerits for officers facing cases or allegations that could hurt their prospects of being posted to "high-value" locations such as Bengaluru.

The new rules seek to institutionalise transfers via counselling for sub-registrars, who are notoriously known to stay put in prime locations like Bengaluru for years.

Under counselling, the government will notify sub-registrars eligible for transfers and the places available for them to move. Accordingly, they get to pick their next posting.

In a first-of-its-kind move, officers will be ranked for counselling based on pending cases: four points for criminal cases or Lokayukta traps, three for sanctioned prosecution, two for punishment after departmental inquiry, and one for an ongoing inquiry.

DEMERIT POINTS

Officers will be ranked for counselling based on pending cases

- Four points for criminal cases or Lokayukta traps
- Three points for sanctioned prosecution
- Two points for punishment after departmental inquiry
- One point will be awarded for an ongoing inquiry

Officials with the lowest number of points shall be ranked higher than officials having higher points. The highest rank will go to officials scoring zero points for having no disciplinary case.

"There was a perception that only some people were able to get posted in high-value locations using whatever means were available to them. Now, we are throwing it open based on performance. Every decent officer will get an opportunity to work in a high-value location," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *DH*.

Sub-registrars who have worked for five out of eight years in Zone-A, which includes the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) area and 13 city corporations across the state, will be compulsorily transferred, according to the draft rules.

Similarly, first division assistants (FDA) or stenographers who have spent six out of eight years in Zone-A sub-registrar offices will be compulsorily moved.

The last time sub-registrars were transferred based on counselling was in July 2024 as a one-time measure following a Cabinet decision. "Now, we are trying to institutionalise it," Gowda said.

▸ Sub-registrars, Page 6

BJP seeks cancellation of Umar Khalid event in city today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka BJP on Monday urged Bengaluru Police Commissioner, Seemant Kumar Singh, to cancel a scheduled book reading and panel discussion titled "Umar Khalid and His World" in the city on April 28, alleging that the event glorifies an individual facing "serious charges".

The programme, organised by the All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ), the People's Union for Civil Liberties, and Bahutva Karnataka, is centred on a recently published anthology on Khalid's life and writings.

In a memorandum to the commissioner, BJP leaders stated that it was "alarming" that such an event was being held in the city. "He faces serious charges and it is evident from the courts' constantly denying him bail. When the Centre is crushing Naxalism, urban Naxals are organising events in support of anti-nationals," the party said, seeking withdrawal of police permission for Tuesday's event.

Umar Khalid

Security review

The police are reviewing security arrangements for the event after organisers sought protection, citing opposition and threats.

A senior police officer from the East Division said the organisers had sought police protection and we will take a call based on the ground situation.

▸ Umar Khalid, Page 6

Ladakh gets 5 new districts

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's two-day visit to Ladakh on April 30, the Union Territory (UT) administration on Monday approved the creation of five new districts.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena announced the decision in a post on X, calling it a "historic step" aimed at taking governance closer to people in remote areas and improving administrative efficiency in the vast region.

The proposed districts — Zanskar and Drass in Kargil region, and Sham, Nubra and Changthang in Leh — will increase the total number of districts in Ladakh from two to seven.

The announcement comes just days before Shah's visit, during which he is expected to review development projects and hold interactions with local representatives. Officials said the visit will also be closely watched in the context of the Centre's engagement with civil society groups in Ladakh.

Staff intentionally removed janivaras, punish college: Panel

BENGALURU, DHNS

A panel probing the recent incident where three students were forced to remove their janivaras (sacred threads) during the KCET (Karnataka Common Entrance Test) exams at Krupanidhi PU College, Bengaluru, has found that it was an 'intentional act' by the college staff.

A committee constituted by Bengaluru Urban deputy commissioner Jagadeesha G submitted the report which said that prima facie it was proven that the college staff did it intentionally. Following this, the DC has recommended to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) not to consider the college as a centre for any future exams.

Speaking about the report, Jagadeesha said, "We had constituted a committee headed by senior officers and during the inquiry, prima facie it was proven that the act by the staff was intentional."

Jagadeesha added that despite training the staff on the dress code and appointing a separate dress code officer, the college staff, who were on KCET examination duty, forced the students to remove their sacred threads.

> The committee verified CCTV footage, discussed with the principal, spoke to students, parents and examination observers.
>
> **JAGADEESHA G,**
> **Bengaluru Urban DC**

"During the inquiry, the committee verified CCTV footage, discussed with the principal, spoke to students, parents and examination observers and submitted a report," he informed.

The committee has also recommended stringent action against the staff involved in the incident. "The college has already suspended the staff and an FIR has been filed and a police investigation is going on. Besides this, we are recommending stringent action against staff," he added.

BIG BUY

Sun Pharma to acquire US firm for $11 billion

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd on Monday said it will acquire US-based healthcare company Organon & Co in an all-cash deal with an enterprise valuation of $11.75 billion (about Rs 1.10 lakh crore). This is considered to be one of the largest overseas acquisitions by an Indian company. Sun Pharma will pay $14 per share. The deal is expected to be closed by early 2027, subject to regulatory clearances and approvals.

P 14

AGREEMENT

India, NZ set to double trade in five years

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a free trade agreement (FTA) that seeks to eliminate tariffs on nearly all goods, except sensitive sectors like dairy and agriculture, boost investment flows and make movement of professionals easier. As part of the free trade agreement, New Zealand has committed to invest $20 billion in India over the next 15 years. The two countries have agreed to double bilateral trade in the next five years.

P 14

IN TOP GEAR FOR FINAL PHASE

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee rides pillion on a scooter during a roadshow for the state's Assembly elections in Kolkata on Monday. Canvassing for the final phase in West Bengal concluded on Monday. Voting across 142 constituencies in the second and final phase in the state will take place on Wednesday. PTI

Reports, Page 7

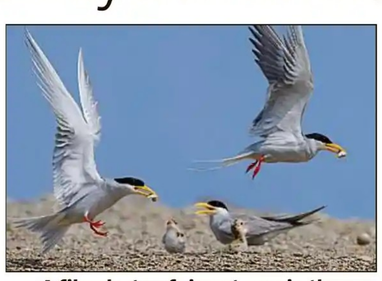
CLIMATE CHANGE

River terns shy away from Bhadra as weeds ravage nesting site

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Climate change and overgrowth of vegetation have adversely impacted the world's largest nesting grounds of river terns on the islands of Bhadra Tiger Reserve (BTR) this season. River terns, a wading bird species, are classified as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Researchers and forest department officials used to record more than 10,000 pairs of river terns nesting on the three to four islands in BTR between February and June. However, this year due to untimely rains in February that resulted in growth of shrubs and grasses, not even 400 of them have laid eggs.



A file photo of river terns in the Bhadra backwaters. PHOTO BY KARTHIK N J

An extended monsoon coupled with excess release of water until February has resulted in the growth of weeds on these islands, leaving early-arriving river terns with no suitable grounds for nesting. These ground-nesting birds require open sandy or rocky areas to camouflage their eggs from predators.

"Usually, the birds start arriving from December to January and stay until the arrival of the monsoon. These birds lay eggs in two to three cycles," says head of department of Wildlife and Management, Kuvempu University, Vijay Kumar.

He says that during this period, these islands used to remain dry, making them perfect breeding grounds for river terns. However, this year, the islands remained submerged for a longer period and were covered with vegetation, a condition typically seen during the monsoon.

Kartik N J, a research scholar at Kuvempu University who has conducted extensive studies on river terns, says that after obtaining permission from the Forest Department, they cleared a 10x10 metre patch of weeds on one of the islands to observe whether the birds would return to nest.

"During field observations, we saw that although the river terns were flying, calling and surveying the area, they were not settling down to nest as expected. The birds started nesting in the cleared patch within 24 hours of the intervention," he says.

Our experiment confirmed that vegetation overgrowth was likely limiting nesting opportunities, and that even a minor, well-timed intervention could restore suitable breeding conditions, he says.

As the islands fall under a tiger reserve, permission from higher authorities is required to carry out weeding activities.

▸ River tern, Page 6

Quickly

Mangaluru cooker blast accused gets 10 years RI

A special NIA court on Monday sentenced the accused in the Mangaluru cooker blast case, Mohammed Shariq, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. The court has also imposed a cost of Rs 94,000 upon the convict. The pressure cooker IED had exploded at Nagori in Mangaluru on November 19, 2022, when Mohammed Shariq was carrying it in an autorickshaw. Autorickshaw driver Purushottam and Shariq sustained injuries in the incident. The judge sentenced Shariq to 10 years RI after finding him guilty of offences under the UAPA.
Details on Page 5

At 38.2°C, KIA records third-hottest day for April

The Kempegowda International Airport recorded a maximum temperature of 38.2°C on Monday, the joint third-highest for April since the IMD set up an observatory there in 2014. This is also the highest maximum temperature recorded at any weather station in Bengaluru this summer.
Details on Page 2

Marathi must for drivers in Maha: Minister

Drivers of all commercial passenger vehicles in Maharashtra must have a working knowledge of Marathi, Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said on Monday, while warning of strict action against those who refuse to learn the language. Sarnaik said demands of autorickshaw and taxi unions to give non-Marathi drivers a fixed time to learn the language were reasonable and are being considered, he said.

Cops to verify background of homestay staff

The background of all staff employed by homestays across Karnataka must be verified at the local police station, according to new guidelines issued by the Tourism Department on Monday. The move comes days after an American tourist was allegedly drugged and sexually assaulted at a homestay in Kutta, Kodagu district. The geographic coordinates of all registered accommodation units must be mapped as mandatory checkpoints in the Karnataka Smart E-Beat System.
Details on Page 6

Puducherry CBSE schools may drop French

CBSE schools in Puducherry are likely to drop French from the 2026–2027 academic year, as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 allows only one foreign language, triggering a massive outcry from political parties. The schools are likely to introduce Hindi or Sanskrit.

Four die of suspected food poisoning in Mumbai

Four members of a family died of suspected food poisoning in Mumbai's Pydhonie, said officials. According to a preliminary report, the family consumed biryani and watermelon on Saturday night. They had dinner around 10.30 pm and ate watermelon around 1.30 am, and developed nausea and vomiting at around 6 am. Later, they died in a hospital.
Details on Page 11

ASIA'S LARGEST: SCADA facility to detect leaks, monitor quality and predict demand in real time

BWSSB to launch AI water management hub

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will soon inaugurate a state-of-the-art Integrated Intelligent Water and Sewerage Management Centre, known as the SCADA command centre, a key component of the Cauvery Stage V project.

The integrated command centre, said to be one of the largest in Asia, will manage the city's drinking water and sewerage networks under a single roof.

BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V said the system will significantly improve management of the city's water and sewerage network.

"It is a matter of immense pride that the BWSSB is implementing Asia's largest control centre to manage drinking water and wastewater on such a massive scale. Adopting complete transparency and the highest level of technology, this Intelligent SCADA Centre will create a new revolution in water and sewerage management," he said.

The command centre uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accurately predict water demand across different areas, detect water leakage in pipelines instantly to prevent wastage, and identify any contamination.

Ramprasat Manohar V, Chairman of BWSSB, reviews operations at the advanced Integrated Intelligent Water and Sewerage Management Center (SCADA). PHOTO: BWSSB

"This centre serves as the foundational step toward creating a Digital Twin of the entire network in the future. The command centre is integrated with the water treatment plants at TK Halli, Harohalli and Tataguni, as well as all ground-level reservoirs in the city. Water quality parameters such as chlorine, pH, TDS, and turbidity are continuously measured during supply. If the water gets contaminated, an alert message is immediately dispatched, ensuring the supply of safe drinking water to citizens," a BWSSB statement said.

The system will also be integrated with the sewage treatment plants in the city, ensuring that treated water meets standards set by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). It also monitors the volume of biogas generated at the plants.

Public borewells, GIS, and smart meters have also been integrated through Internet of Things (IoT) technology.

"The system incorporates advanced mechanisms to issue early warnings before any machinery breaks down, which will significantly save operational costs and electricity expenses for the BWSSB," the board said.

RAMPRASAT MANOHAR V
BWSSB Chairman

"It is a matter of immense pride that the BWSSB is implementing Asia's largest control centre to manage drinking water and wastewater on such a massive scale. Adopting complete transparency and the highest level of technology, this Intelligent SCADA Centre will create a new revolution in water and sewerage management.

Pipes go underground, but connections still to surface

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cauvery Stage V project was inaugurated in October 2024, yet nearly one-and-a-half years on, several areas on the periphery of the city still await sewerage connections.

Works began in March 2018, and many residents who paid for sewage connections in 2019 are still waiting. Having missed multiple deadlines, they had hoped the sewerage network would be operational by the end of 2025.

BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V said work in the majority of areas was complete.

"Close to 90% of these 110 villages have been provided with sewage connections. However, a few STPs are to be operationalised. We will complete them soon," he said.

While the board claimed 90% coverage across the 110 villages, residents said that in several areas, only pipelines were laid, but the system was not operational.

Sewage projects lag behind in newly added villages

- Out of 14 planned sewage treatment plants (STPs), only 5 are operational.
- 1 project stalled due to legal issues.
- Remaining 8 STPs delayed until July 2026.
- Study reveals need for 9 additional STPs.
- New projects expected to be completed by 2028.

"The pipelines have been laid and chambers made. However, the officials had asked us not to connect our existing chambers to the network since the STPs were not operational. Even though the pipelines were laid nearly four years ago, the services have not begun officially," said Srinivas Rao, a resident of Thanisandra.

Of the 14 STPs planned to address sewage treatment needs across the 110 villages brought into Bengaluru's municipal limits in 2008, only five are operational, one is stuck in a legal battle, and eight will be completed only by July 2026.

A BWSSB study further found that nine more STPs are needed to meet the requirements of these villages, with works on the additional plants expected to be completed only by 2028.

The absence of a sewage network has led to illegal discharge into lakes and storm water drains, polluting water bodies.

Civil defence mock drill today

BENGALURU, DHNS: A civil defence mock drill will be held on Tuesday to prepare the public for air raid and blackout situations.

The exercise will be conducted at 5.30 pm at the Home Guards and Civil Defence Department headquarters on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, opposite Halasuru Lake.

The drill follows an advisory from the Directorate General of Civil Defence and aims to create awareness among civilians on safety protocols during air raid or blackout situations, the Director General of Police and Commandant General, Home Guards and Civil Defence, said in a statement.

Free bus travel for II PUC examinees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Students appearing for the second-year PUC Exam-2 can travel for free on ordinary BMTC buses from their residence to the examination centres by producing their exam hall/admission tickets.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will operate additional trips based on demand and provide request stops near the exam centres.

Exam-2 is scheduled from April 30 to May 13.

At 38.2°C, KIA logs third-highest maximum temperature for April

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recorded a maximum temperature of 38.2°C on Monday, the joint third-highest for April since the India Meteorological Department (IMD) set up an observatory there in 2014.

This is also the highest maximum temperature recorded at any weather station in Bengaluru this summer.

The temperature reading taken at 5.30 pm matches that recorded on April 4, 2024.

The highest-ever April temperature at KIA was 38.4°C, recorded on April 26, 2024, followed by 38.3°C, recorded on April 25, 2016, and April 6, 2024.

Temperatures at the KIA observatory — the weather station representative of Bengaluru's northern and north-eastern areas—have remained unusually high this April, several degrees above the mean of 34.6°C.

Like the rest of the city, April is typically the hottest month at KIA as well. However, the all-time maximum temperature recorded at the weather station is 38.6°C on May 4, 2016, according to IMD.

A worker carries drinking water cans on a pushcart amid rising temperatures. DH PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

On Monday, other observatories also logged elevated maximum temperatures.

The city station recorded 36.3°C (2.2°C above normal) and HAL airport 36.2°C (up 2.3°C above normal).

Shower forecast pushed

Meanwhile, the IMD has revised its forecast for pre-monsoon showers, pushing the onset of rain or thundershowers in Bengaluru from April 28 to April 29.

Pink Line RDSO trials from today; no May opening for Bannerghatta metro

Statutory approvals likely to take two months

BENGALURU, DHNS

Oscillation trials for Pink Line trains will begin on Tuesday, kick-starting a crucial process to secure statutory clearances for new rolling stock.

A team from the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) arrived at the Kothanur depot over the weekend to begin instrumentation work. Trials are scheduled to start on Tuesday, a senior BMRCL official told *DH*.

Earlier this month, the Railway Board gave the go-ahead for RDSO trials, which take at least 10 days and include oscillation, braking, speed, and track and system integration tests.

Without RDSO certification, new trains cannot run.

An RDSO team has reached the Kothanur depot ahead of oscillation trials for Pink Line trains. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, the Pink Line's 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere section along Bannerghatta Road is unlikely to open by May-end as the approvals process will take at least two months.

The trains have been manufactured by BEML, which has so far delivered five rakes. While BEML supplied the first train in December, RDSO trials were delayed after the Railway Board raised technical queries related to design approvals, BMRCL sources said.

Based on successful trials, the RDSO will issue a report and a speed certificate. The BMRCL will submit these to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for rolling stock inspection and final clearance from the Ministry of Railways. After this, the RDSO will issue the final speed certificate.

The BMRCL will take his certificate to the CMRS for a statutory inspection of the metro line for passenger service.

It will also require the Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) certification for signalling and train control systems.

Yellow Line gets 10th train

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has received the 10th train for the Yellow Line.

All six coaches of the trainset have been unloaded at the Hebbagodi depot. After completion of coupling and gangway fitment, the trainset will be moved to the Inspection Bay Line for further tests, a senior BMRLC official said.

The train must run on the mainline for at least 750 km before it can be deployed for commercial operation, possibly in the third week of May.

Meanwhile, the ninth train that arrived from Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL) earlier is undergoing trial runs and is expected to enter passenger service in early May.

With 10 trains, peak-hour frequency on the 19.75-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro line will be 6-7 minutes. One train will be kept as a spare for emergencies, a senior BMRCL official said.

All six coaches have been unloaded at the Hebbagodi depot. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Consultation on Better Implementation of Laws for SC/ST Welfare in Karnataka: Report presentation by Siddharth Joshi; Responses by H Shashidhara Shetty, HP Sudhamadas, D Randeep; Organised by Alternative Law Forum, Slum Janandolana Karnataka, Samvidhana Samrakshana Vedike; Gandhi Bhavan; 10.30 am onwards.

CULTURAL

'Kalari Buds' Kalaripayattu performance: Hamsalekha to attend; Organised by Kalari Gurukulam; Ravindra Kalakshetra; 10.30 am.

Sammilana Mixed Music-20: Veena Bhat, Sudheendra, Swati Mahesh to attend; Bharatanatyam by KC Madasmita; Organised by Aarohana; Prayoga Studio Theatre, Banashankari; 6 pm.

'Neeragannadi' play: Written by KY Narayanaswamy; Directed by B Suresh; Music by MD Pallavi; Organised by Nataranga; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Nimishamba Devi Jayanti: Abhisheka at 7.30 am, floral decoration, Mahamangalarati at 8 am, distribution of tirtha prasada; Chariot procession at 3 pm; Nimishamba Devi Temple, Cottonpet.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.0°C
Minimum	24.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	67%
Sunset (Apr 28)	6:34 pm
Sunrise (Apr 29)	6:01 am
Moonrise	3:07 pm
Moonset	2:56 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION)
SAI- Head Office Building, SAI-Headquarter, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex (East Gate-No.10), Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

F.No. 01-04001(01)/13/2024-HO-Personnel Division/256 Date: 21-04-2026

CORRIGENDUM

SUB: EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT COACH ON REGULAR BASIS.

In partial modification to the Addendum issued vide **F.No.01-04001(01)/13/2024-HO-Personnel Division/237** dated **25.03.2026,** the closing date for submission of online applications for the post of Assistant Coach on regular basis is **hereby extended up to 05.05.2026 (05:00 PM).** The remaining clauses stand valid.

2. The details and application link are available on the website of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports www.yas.nic.in & SAI i.e. www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in.

Sd/- **Executive Director**
(Human Resources Division) Sports
Authority of India

CBC 47103/11/0005/2627

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division - II)
HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE), JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No. 01-04001 (03)/4/2026-66 Date: 21-04-2026

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA RECRUITMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ON DEPUTATION) BASIS

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, invites applications for 20 Posts of Deputy Director in Pay Matrix Level-11 on deputation basis for a period of 3 years at its Head Office, New Delhi and various field units. Eligible officers may submit applications in the prescribed format, along with required documents, to the **Director (Human Resources Division-II), SAI, J.N. Stadium Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.** Last date for receipt of applications is 21-05-2026 (5:00 PM). Detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, proforma and instructions will be available on the SAI website (www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

CBC 47103/11/0006/2627

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, AFS, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU: 560063
Website:https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in **Mail:**kvafsyel63@gmail.com **Phone: 080-29721121**

Class - XI Admission Notice: 2026 - 2027

Registrations for admission to Class XI Science and Humanities streams for the academic session 2026-27 are open in offline mode from 28.04.2026 to 02.05.2026.The registration form can be downloaded from the Vidyalaya **website:https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in** or obtained from the Vidyalaya office and submitted to Vidyalaya office on all working days between 11 am to 1 pm. For further information, please **visit:https://kvsangathan.nic.in** & **https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in**

Sd/- Principal
K.V. AFS Yelahanka

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division - II)
HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE), JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

File No. 01-04001 (03)/4/2026-66 Date: 10-04-2026

Sports Authority of India Recruitment DIRECTOR (ON DEPUTATION) basis

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, invites applications for 16 Posts of Director in Pay Matrix Level-12 on deputation basis for a period of 3 years at its Head Office, New Delhi and various field units. Eligible officers may submit applications in the prescribed format, along with required documents, to the Director (Human Resources Division-II), SAI, J.N. Stadium Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Last date for receipt of applications is 10-05-2026 (5:00 PM). Detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, proforma and instructions will be available on the SAI website (www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

CBC 47103/11/0004/2627

Train disruptions due to Channasandra yard remodelling

BENGALURU, DHNS: The following train services will be partially cancelled or diverted due to yard remodelling at the Channasandra railway station in the city:

Train number 20687 Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru Superfast Express, commencing its journey between April 29 and May 1, be short-terminated at Yeshwantpur. Train number 20688 KSR Bengaluru-Hubballi Superfast Express, commencing its journey between April 30 and May 2, will originate from Yeshwantpur instead of KSR Bengaluru.

Train number 12785 Kacheguda-Ashokapuram Express, commencing its journey from April 29 to May 2, will run via Yelahanka, Yeshwantpur and KSR Bengaluru, skipping Bengaluru East and Bengaluru Cantonment.

Train number 12786 Ashokapuram-Kacheguda Express, commencing its journey from April 30 to May 2, will run via KSR Bengaluru, Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka, skipping Cantonment.

AN ACT OF COURAGE

She could not see the path, but she walked all the way to Everest Base Camp

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Tinkesh Ability Foundation (TAF) has announced the completion of India's largest inclusive trek to Everest Base Camp, marking a historic milestone in inclusive adventure and accessibility.

Priyanka Agrawal, a software engineer from Bengaluru who is visually impaired, has become the second visually impaired woman from India to trek to the Everest Base Camp and the first from Karnataka to do so. She and her husband Dimpesh Bhatewara, a non-disabled participant on the trek, became India's first inter-abled couple to complete the iconic trek.

The expedition brought together a diverse group of participants, including, for the first time from India, a wheelchair user on a high-altitude Himalayan trek.

Speaking to *DH*, Priyanka described the achievement as a "life-changing" experience. "It is unbelievable. It took me four months of yoga, walking and climbing exercise and training prior to the trek. I was in two minds whether to go or not, but the organisers gave me the confidence to go ahead. It is an exhilarating experience," she said.

The team comprised six people with disabilities: Tinkesh, a triple amputee and world record holder; Rupinder Kaur, a wheelchair user; Sameer Deshmukh, an above-knee amputee; Vikas Patel, a below-knee amputee; Dipendra Singh, an arm amputee; and Priyanka Agrawal, who is visually impaired.

They were accompanied by seven non-disabled participants — Vishal D'Costa, Cecille Rodrigues, Sydenstrica Gautam, Sudhakar, Kumar, Ayub Ansari, Prasanna Police Reddy and Dimpesh Bhatewara — reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and inclusion.

The trek was led by Tinkesh Kaushik, National Awardee, world record holder, triple amputee, and Founder of TAF.

Priyanka Agrawal with her husband, Dimpesh Bhatewara.

Unpaid dues and 240 dead cameras on IPL night

Technicians allegedly breached control room

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two employees of a CCTV sub-vendor damaged surveillance systems at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 24, knocking out over 240 cameras during the IPL match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Gujarat Titans (GT).

Cubbon Park police have booked the duo, employees of IVS Digital Solutions, a sub-vendor for Gurugram-based Staqu Technologies Pvt Ltd, which provides AI-driven surveillance solutions on IPL match days.

At 11.30 am, the two entered the CCTV control room without valid passes and damaged the Network Video Recorder systems and related fibre connections, stated a complaint filed by Aditya Bhat, an employee at Staqu Technologies.

CCTV footage showed them accessing restricted areas, including the control room and connection boxes near the parking area, the FIR stated.

The affected cameras covered entry gates, perimeter zones and concourses. Officials could not provide live feeds to police personnel deployed for security during the match.

The CCTV surveillance network at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Two employees of a CCTV sub-vendor reportedly disabled the entire camera network at Chinnaswamy Stadium in protest over unpaid dues of Rs 10 lakh.

The suspects used deactivated access cards to enter the CCTV control room. Security personnel did not stop them, as they were familiar faces who had been seen working at the stadium premises earlier, police said.

Police have booked the duo for intentional destruction of property.

The dispute stemmed from non-payment of Rs 10 lakh. The suspects told police the act was an "intentional" reaction to the non-payment of their dues.

No role: KSCA

Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) authorities were unaware of the internal dispute between Staqu Technologies and IVS Digital Solutions over payment issues. They learnt of the incident only after receiving a complaint, and clarified that KSCA has no role in the episode, a senior police officer said.

RPF chief reviews security infra at 4 city railway stations

BENGALURU, DHNS

Sonali Mishra, Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), conducted a security and operational inspection of four railway stations in Bengaluru on Monday.

The visit focused on reviewing passenger holding areas in view of the summer rush, modernisation of security infrastructure, and the welfare of RPF personnel. She also assessed passenger facilities, including CCTV surveillance systems and the functioning of baggage scanners, according to a railway statement.

Sonali inspected Bengaluru Cantonment, KSR Bengaluru, KR Puram and SMVT Bengaluru during her day-long visit.

At KSR Bengaluru, she reviewed the Integrated CCTV Command Centre, examining the resolution and operational efficiency of the installed cameras.

She assessed live feed quality, coverage and technical capabilities of the surveillance system, and issued instructions to further strengthen security monitoring infrastructure, the statement said.

Sonali Mishra, Director General of Police, Railway Protection Force (RPF), during her visit to SMVT Bengaluru on Wednesday. PHOTO: SWR

At SMVT Bengaluru, the inspection focused on crowd management strategies and deployment of RPF personnel at entry and exit points.

At KR Puram, she reviewed the overall security arrangements, the statement added.

Addressing RPF officers and staff, Mishra emphasised the need to leverage cutting-edge technology and data analytics to prevent organised crime and human trafficking on the rail network.

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru; Sarvapriya Mayank, Additional Director General, RPF; Sumiti Shandilya, IG, RPSF and IG (Tech); RSP Singh, IG, RPF/SWR; Parikshit Mohanpuriya, ADRM, Bengaluru; JK Rashmi, DIG, Railways; Sarah Fatima, SP, Railways; Shreyans Chinchawade, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, RPF; and other officers were present on the occasion, the statement added.

Student accuses mobile shop owner, assistant of sexual harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 21-year-old engineering student has filed a complaint alleging sexual harassment by a mobile repair shop owner and his assistant in HAL.

A senior police officer said the complainant, a resident of Kundalahalli, had visited a shop named CELAP to get her phone repaired.

The owner, Sameer, replaced the screen and retained the handset for camera repair after charging Rs 3,800. When she returned a week later, Sameer allegedly made obscene remarks about her body and passed sexually explicit comments. He also allegedly claimed he had sexually abused her friend in a hotel.

On April 6, Sameer called the student at 3 am. When she did not answer, he sent WhatsApp messages containing sexually explicit and harassing content.

On April 25, Sameer's assistant, Naushad, began sending similar messages to her. Distressed over continuous harassment by the duo, she filed a police complaint.

HAL police have registered a case against the accused and questioned them.

Warehouse fire in Nandini Layout guts 8 buildings; 50 evacuated from ladies' PG

BENGALURU, DHNS: A major fire at a warehouse of Blue Leaf Signage Industry in Nandini Layout on Sunday night damaged eight residential buildings, including a four-storey ladies' PG accommodation.

The incident occurred at 12.50 am near the Dr Rajkumar Memorial.

The warehouse, which stored banners and LED screens for distribution, is suspected to have caught fire due to an electric short circuit, based on preliminary investigations.

The blaze spread rapidly, engulfing the PG building and adjoining houses. Around 50 women staying in the PG were safely evacuated, and no casualties were reported. Two vehicles, including a two-wheeler parked in front of the warehouse, were completely gutted.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot with two fire tenders and brought the fire under control after nearly two-and-a-half hours.

Nandini Layout police have registered a case of accidental fire. Investigations are underway.

Woman electrocuted while using washing machine; kin suspect foul play

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a suspected freak incident, a 30-year-old woman was electrocuted while using a washing machine at her home in north Bengaluru on Monday, police said.

Sujatha

Sujatha allegedly suffered an electric shock when she tried to operate the washing machine at her residence in Gowdanahalli, Madanayakanahalli, around 7.30 am. The incident was captured on CCTV camera.

However, her family has raised doubts about the circumstances surrounding her death, stating they do not believe it was accidental.

Sujatha's husband, Chetan, is a businessman.

According to her family, the couple had frequent disputes since their marriage, and Sujatha had returned to her parental home about a month ago due to alleged harassment by her husband.

They further alleged that Chetan and his mother persuaded her to return to Gowdanahalli just a week ago. Her death within days of returning has raised serious suspicions, the family said.

Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death and shifted the body to Victoria Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Further investigation is on.

Jharkhand woman found dead; police suspect suicide 4 days ago

BENGALURU, DHNS: The highly decomposed body of a 30-year-old woman from Jharkhand was found at her home in southeastern Bengaluru's Adugodi on Monday evening, police said.

The deceased, identified as Pooja Dutta, lived alone in AK Colony and worked at a private company. She rented the place three years ago and was unmarried, according to police.

Pooja Dutta

Neighbours called the police after noticing a foul smell from the house. When police broke the door open around 5 pm, they discovered a highly decomposed, unclothed body. The body was later sent for post-mortem examinations.

While police found no death note, they discovered several torn papers scattered inside the house, leading them to suspect that she died by suicide about four days ago after locking the door from the inside.

The landlord told the police he spoke to her on April 23.

For now, police have opened a case of unnatural death. Further investigations are underway.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

US-based doctor loses Rs 1-cr gold jewellery at wedding hall

BENGALURU, DHNS: A US-based doctor lost gold jewellery worth Rs 1 crore at a wedding hall in Bidarahalli on April 22.

The incident occurred between 7.30 pm and 11.30 pm at SDP Kalayana Mantapa, off Old Madras Road.

Dr Siruvella Sridevi, 52, arrived in Bengaluru on April 18 to attend her nephew's wedding. She brought 725 grams of jewellery worth Rs 1 crore from the US, the FIR stated.

After wearing some of the ornaments at the wedding, she kept them inside a locked room at the hall. When she returned later, the jewellery was missing.

She told police that while getting ready, she saw a domestic worker employed at the wedding hall enter the room.

Avalahalli police have registered a case and launched a probe.

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Govt to operate 108 ambulance service soon: Minister

HAVERI/DHARWAD, DHNS: In a first-of-its-kind, the state government will operate '108' ambulance services in Karnataka, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said.

Speaking after inaugurating taluk hospital in Shiggaon on Monday, the minister said that the work on setting up of a control room and other facilities required for the ambulance service, is in progress.

"No government in the entire country is providing ambulance services and Karnataka is the first state to do so. The government has taken this landmark decision to ensure quality service to the public during times of medical emergency," he said.

Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, Rao said that the government will soon launch teleradiology facility in the state. He said that X-ray and scan reports can be sent through a tele-system, allowing radiologists to review them and furnish their opinions remotely.

He further stated that the recruitment to fill 1,300 posts of hospital staff and 225 specialist doctors will begin soon.

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With profound grief we inform of the sad demise of
Mrs. THERESA JOSEPH
Wife of Late B Joseph Sebastian, and Daughter of Late S Arockianathan, Chief Draughtsman, Kolar Gold Mines.
Who left for her heavenly abode on **23rd April 2026.**
Mortal remains will be kept for viewing on **Thursday, 30th April from 9:00 am to 11:00 am,** at No.184, Ground Floor, Oil Mill Road Cross, Near BBMP Park, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560 084.
Funeral Mass will be held at 12 noon in Holy Ghost Church, Davis Road, Bengaluru, followed by burial in Kalpalli Catholic Cemetery, Jeevanahally at 2:00 pm.
Grieving children, grandchildren, siblings and extended family
Contact: Robin - 9449820322; Gilbert - 9742045111

Leadership change or Cabinet rejig: Cong camps expect 'good news'

Anticipate decision by May 20 when govt completes 3 years

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tug of war in Congress is likely to escalate with a team of 40 lawmakers preparing to visit New Delhi again for a Cabinet reshuffle while Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's camp has its fingers crossed over his leadership ambition.

Both camps - those who want to become ministers and Shivakumar who wants to replace Siddaramaiah as the chief minister - are awaiting 'good news' from the Congress top brass ahead of the government completing three years on May 20.

Earlier this month, over two dozen lawmakers visited the national capital to seek a Cabinet reshuffle. The lawmakers, led by Government Chief Whip Ashok Pattan, are planning another trip.

"After May 4, when the election results of various states will be out, 40 lawmakers are planning to visit New Delhi again to press for a Cabinet reshuffle," Pattan, a Siddaramaiah loyalist, said.

"Our general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala has promised us good news in the 2nd or 3rd week of May. We also met our national president Mallikarjun Kharge who said he'd speak to Rahul Gandhi (about Cabinet reshuffle)," he added.

Last week, Shivakumar spent a couple of days in New Delhi amid speculation that he mounted pressure on the Congress top brass to clarify on his leadership dispute with Siddaramaiah.

It is widely believed that Shivakumar does not favour a Cabinet reshuffle without clarity on the chief minister's tenure. A reshuffle with Siddaramaiah continuing as CM will be bad news for Shivakumar.

Meanwhile, Kunigal Congress MLA Dr H D Ranganath reminded the Congress about the 'power-sharing agreement' between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. "An agreement is being talked about. What is that agreement? The high command should spell it out," said Ranganath, who is identified with Shivakumar. He also wished that Shivakumar will receive 'good news' before his birthday on May 15.

Idiga seer Pranavananda Swami calls on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at latter's Sadashivanagar residence, in Bengaluru on Monday. The seer, who spearheads a group of the religious heads of the 32 most backward communities, backs Shivakumar for CM post.

ASHOK PATTAN
Government Chief Whip

"Our general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala has promised us good news in the 2nd or 3rd week of May. We also met our national president Mallikarjun Kharge who said he'd speak to Rahul Gandhi (about Cabinet reshuffle).

DR H D RANGANATH
Congress MLA

"An agreement is being talked about. What is that agreement? The high command should spell it out.

Seer backs DKS

During the day, Idiga community seer Pranavananda Swami, who heads a forum of 'most backward classes' pontiffs, met Shivakumar. Earlier, the seer said Shivakumar should become the CM. "I demand that Congress make Shivakumar the CM," he said.

CoE in logistics, supply chain at M'luru govt polytechnic

MANGALURU, DHNS: The state government has selected The Karnataka (Govt) Polytechnic (KPT), Mangaluru, for setting up the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in logistics and supply chain. The CoE will come up at a cost of Rs 75 crore.

KPT Principal Harisha Shetty said that the process for procurement of machines required for the CoE has begun. The CoE is likely to be ready by August. At present, it will be started in the available building of the KPT.

The CoE will help in enhancing skill development by imparting training needed for the industry. The CoE facility will also be used by the colleges in the nearby areas, he said.

The primary objective of the CoE is to enhance Karnataka's overall technology landscape by creating programmes and initiatives across four key pillars—industry, R&D/academia, government, and startups/ecosystem building.

Retired cop falls prey to investment fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS

A retired IPS officer from Karnataka fell prey to an online investment fraud and lost Rs 19,631.

Following a complaint by B A Padmanayan, the West Cybercrime Police registered a case on April 22 and launched a probe.

In his complaint, Padmanayan told the police that on April 20, he had received a video about investments on his WhatsApp, followed by a call from an unknown number.

On the phone, the caller identified as Imran from Proxtrend Stock Brokers.

He then shared with Padmanayan a website of the so-called brokerage he was claiming to represent.

Next, Imran made the victim create an account on the website and asked him to wire $200.

When Padmanayan said he didn't have US dollars, Imran assured him that the local currency could be converted on Proxtrend, the FIR noted. Imran then sent a QR code, to which the retired officer paid Rs 19,631.37.

Following this, the suspect went incommunicado, leading to the victim to realise that he had been cheated. He then approached the cybercrime police. An investigation is underway.

SSLC: Minister rejects 'mass copying' allegations

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa has dismissed the allegations of "mass copying" in SSLC examination. Reacting to former minister A H Vishwanath's charges, he said the comment was an insult to students who worked hard to score higher marks.

Madhu also dismissed the charge that webcasting was interrupted during the exams.

"Vishwanath has become old; he is akin to a child now. Considering his age, let us forgive him. I was the first to introduce webcasting from exam rooms. How can anybody copy when a camera is installed in the examination hall?" he sought to know.

Taking exception to former CM Basavaraj Bommai's remarks on the government's decision to reduce the passing mark from 35 to 33, Madhu sought to point out that only 0.14% of children had cleared the exam by securing 33 marks. "The revised passing mark is in keeping with the Centre's regulations. In Kerala, students clear exams if they secure 30 marks," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to your kind notice to the General Public that my clients are intending to purchase the undermentioned property through the Registered Sale Deed by paying the Valuable Sale Consideration from its Owners namely 1) Smt. Shakunthala, Aged about 55 years, W/o V.N. Sathyanarayana Reddy and 2) Sri. V.N. Sathyanarayana Reddy, Aged about 63 years, S/o Late. V.G. Narayana Reddy, Both are Residing at Door No: 448, 12th Main, 24th Cross, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102. Inview of the above, any General Public/Persons, Financial Institutions, Banks, Co-operative Societies and/or anybody who have any manner of right, title, claim, interest, charge, Possession and/or any objections in whatsoever manner for such purchase by my clients, they may file their objections with documentary proof before the undersigned within 15 days from the date publication. If the undersigned doesnot receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from encumbrances, claims, charges, liens, mortgages and obligations and my clients shall proceed towards the Registered Lease.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the Building Property Comprised on Site No: 67, Intermediate, BBMP Khatha No: 1497/67, Measuring East to West= 30 Feet, North to South= 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Square Feet, in the Layout formed by the I.T.I. Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd, formed in the adjoining lands in Survey No. 16/5, 16/5A, 16/5B, 16/6, 16/7, 16/8, 16/12, 16/13, 16/17, 16/18, 16/19, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3A, 17/3B, 17/3C, 17/5, 17/6, 17/7, 17/11, 18/2, 18/3, 18/5, 18/6B, 18/7A, 18/7B, 18/9, 18/10, 20/7, 20/9, 20/10B, 20/11 and 21/3, Situated at: Yellukunte Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No: 190, consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor, Fourth Floor, Filth Floor and Sixth Floor and the same is bounded as follows: **East by:** Site No: 66, **West by:** Site No: 68, **North by:** Site No: 46, **South by:** Road.
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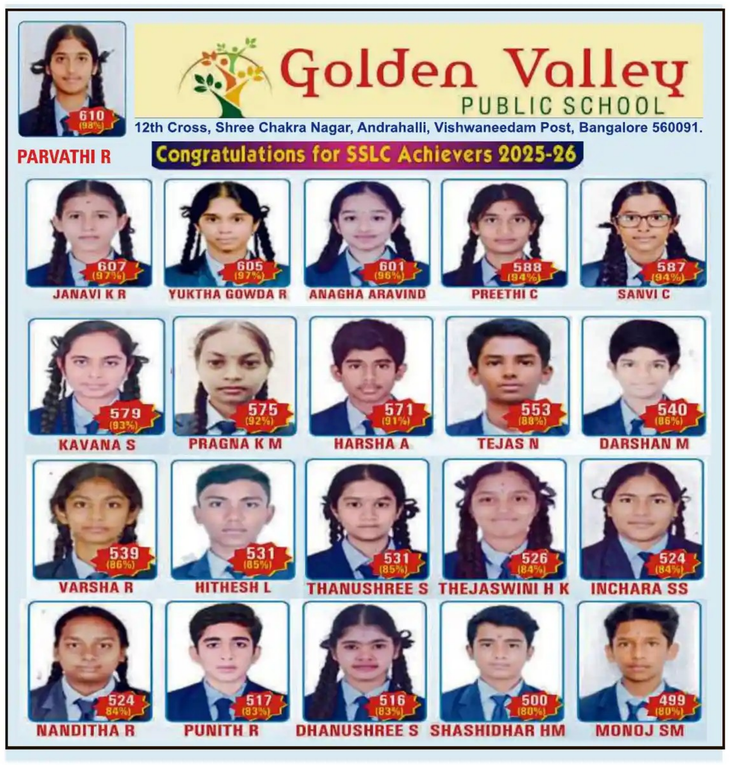
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This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client interesting to purchase to below mentioned schedule properties.
Further, the schedule' properties presently belong to **Smt. Chandramma** D/o Govindayya and **Sri.Vijayakumar J** S/o Govindappa and they are intending to alienate the schedule properties.
If any other person/s / authority/lies has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge or lien over the below mentioned schedule properties, they are hereby requested to file their objections to the Sale transaction of the aforesaid below mentioned schedule properties in writing along with the photocopies of the documents relied for such claim/objections, through the Speed Post with Acknowledgement Due to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no valid claim/objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to consider the sale transaction is valid and after no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule properties.
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My client Mr. Arun Kumar N (47 yrs), HBR Layout, Bengaluru, has entered into a Sale Agreement dated 20-04-2026 with Mrs. Sheelavati V Topagi (40 yrs), Thurahalli, Bengaluru, in respect of the below property.
Any person having any claim/objection shall notify with proof within 15 days from publication, failing which the transaction will be completed and claims ignored.
Property: Site No.923, Khatha 545, E-Asathi PID 3191789344, Sy.No. 64, Upkar Residency, Hullalu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, area 2145 sq.ft.
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75th Convocation on 23rd April 2026

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Kausali Institute of Management Studies, Karnataka University, Dharwad
Topic: A study on Mudra Yojana in Promoting Women Entrepreneurship.
In the honourable presence of Governor and Higher Education Minister of Karnataka

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PERSONAL
Change of Name
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA SRINIVASA,** residing at No. 2/C, Poojarappa Garden, Basappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027, have changed my name to **ANITHA SRINIVAS** vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before notary N Kanchivaradaraju, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ANITHA SRINIVAS** only

I, SYEDA ATHER FATHIMA JOHER, Residing at Bengaluru-78, have changed my name as SYEDA ATHER FATHIMA, vide affidavit dated 27/04/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammaappanavar, Bengaluru

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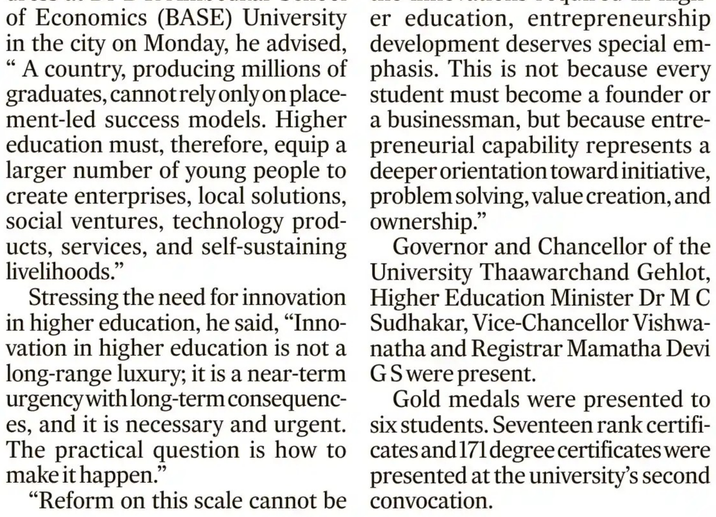
I, MANJUNATH, residing at Bengaluru-562149 have changed my name as MANJUNATHA. M, vide affidavit dated 27/04/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SADIYA SHAIKH** and **SADIYA MOHAMMED YUSUF SHAIKH,** residing at # 50/A, 9th Cross, HBR Layout 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru- 560043, declare that the above name pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **SADIYA SHAIKH,** vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before XXXVIII Addi. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

Thanksgiving
THANK YOU Infant Jesus for the miracle and prayers answers -Vatsela



Gold medalists (from left) Gauri Agarwal, Meghana B Prasheed, Priyanshu Shekhar, Divya U, Parvathi J and Neha M pose with their medals at the second convocation of Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics University in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

'Entrepreneurship devpt deserves special emphasis in higher edu'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former member of the Planning Commission B L Mungekar said that India's unemployment and underemployment challenges cannot be addressed solely through the expansion of conventional jobs.

Delivering the convocation address at Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University in the city on Monday, he advised, " A country, producing millions of graduates, cannot rely only on placement-led success models. Higher education must, therefore, equip a larger number of young people to create enterprises, local solutions, social ventures, technology products, services, and self-sustaining livelihoods."

Stressing the need for innovation in higher education, he said, "Innovation in higher education is not a long-range luxury; it is a near-term urgency with long-term consequences, and it is necessary and urgent. The practical question is how to make it happen."

"Reform on this scale cannot be left to inspirational speeches, isolated model institutions, or sporadic pilot projects. It requires a coordinated action framework in which policy, finance, institutional leadership, faculty incentives, industry engagement, and social expectations move in alignment," he observed.

He further added, "Among all the innovations required in higher education, entrepreneurship development deserves special emphasis. This is not because every student must become a founder or a businessman, but because entrepreneurial capability represents a deeper orientation toward initiative, problem solving, value creation, and ownership."

Governor and Chancellor of the University Thaawarchand Gehlot, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, Vice-Chancellor Vishwanatha and Registrar Mamatha Devi G S were present.

Gold medals were presented to six students. Seventeen rank certificates and 171 degree certificates were presented at the university's second convocation.

Satish Jarkiholi urges AICC chief to address leadership issue

▶ NEW DELHI, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Monday met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary (in charge of Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala here and requested them to address the speculation regarding the purported change of leadership in Karnataka.

"I met both Kharge and Surjewala and requested them to clarify the rumours about a change of leadership in the state," Jarkiholi told reporters.

Jarkiholi, considered a close associate of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said that continued uncertainty could affect the party and the government.

Jarkiholi, who was aspiring to become the state unit president, had previously met senior Congress leaders on several occasions to request their intervention in the matter.

His meeting with Kharge took place days after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar held a discussion lasting over an hour with Kharge.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Dinesh for Cabinet reshuffle, seeks berths for senior MLAs

HUBBALLI, DHNS: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Monday that the Cabinet reshuffle should take place as the government is nearing three years and that senior MLAs, who were not in the Cabinet, should get a chance.

"There is an expectation of a Cabinet reshuffle, but the party's high command and the chief minister will take a decision... Those who lose the ministerial berth should not be disappointed. They should make way for MLAs who did not get the opportunity in the past," he told reporters here.

"We are all loyal workers of the party, and we obey the high command's decision," he told reporters in Hubballi on Monday.

Regarding the matter of power-sharing, Dinesh said the ball is in high command's court. "There is no confusion and it does not affect the functioning of the government. We are all working together. Everybody including MLAs, ministers, DCM and CM, will accept what the high command decides," Dinesh said.

On recruitment

The health minister said that approval was given to recruit 225 doctors and 1,300 other staff, and recruitment would be made taking into consideration the internal reservation formula.

108 Ambulance service

The Health minister said that the preparations are underway to bring the 108 Ambulance (Arogya Kavacha) service under the contral of the state government. The process to set up a control room to run the ambulance service and fitting necessary equipment is going on. The service will be provided in a month's time.

The move will improve efficiency and save crores of rupees, the minister said.

NIA court awards 10-yr RI to M'luru cooker blast accused

Two persons sustained injuries in 2022 incident

BENGALURU, DHNS

A special NIA court on Monday sentenced the accused in the Mangaluru cooker blast case, Mohammed Shariq, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The pressure cooker IED had exploded at Nagori in Mangaluru on November 19, 2022, when Mohammed Shariq was carrying it in an autorickshaw. Autorickshaw driver Purushottam and Shariq sustained injuries in the incident.

The special court sentenced Shariq to 10 years RI after finding him guilty of offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The court has also imposed a cost of Rs 94,000 upon the convict.

In November 2023, the NIA filed the chargesheet, stating that Shariq had planned to plant the IED at the Kadri Manjunatha Temple in Mangaluru. It stated that he made the IED, while another accused had provided material support.

Shariq first came on the radar of security forces in November 2020 when he was arrested for painting graffiti in Mangaluru. The graffiti was in support of the global terror outfit, Islamic State. He was also named in the Shivamogga Islamic State conspiracy case of 2022.

Victim disappointed with verdict

Purushotham Poojary, who suffered serious injuries in the cooker blast in a moving autorickshaw on November 19, 2022, has expressed dissatisfaction over the 10-year imprisonment awarded to the prime accused, Mohammed Shariq, stating that he had expected life imprisonment as punishment for the convict, reports DHNS from Mangaluru.

Purushotham had suffered severe burn injuries when a low-intensity blast occurred inside his autorickshaw near Nagori.

Responding to the verdict delivered by the special National Investigation Agency court, which sentenced accused Mohammed Shariq to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment, Purushotham sought to know what was the guarantee of accused not engaging in anti-national activities again.

Recounting his recovery, Purushotham said he had spent 100 days in hospital and remained bedridden for more than a year following the blast.

He said he continues to spend about Rs 1,000 every 15 days on medicines. The incident has significantly disrupted his life and livelihood. he said.

He also highlighted the limited financial assistance he received after the attack. MLA D Vedavyas Kamath provided an autorickshaw and Rs 5 lakh in financial aid, while the Gurubeladingalu Foundation, led by R Padmaraj, supported the renovation of his house.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad welcomed the court's verdict but described the sentence as too less. It urged National Investigation Agency to file an appeal seeking a harsher punishment.

Following the verdict, VHP workers offered prayers at Garodi Shri Brahmabaidarkala Kshetra.

VHP Prantha Joint Secretary Sharan Pumpwell said the coastal region has been a target of various destructive activities. For the safety of the people, the Union government should take measures to set up an NIA unit in Mangaluru, he urged.

Nomadic communities to move HC against new internal quota formula

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka on Monday decided to contest the state government's new 5.25 - 5.25 - 4.5 formula for internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the High Court of Karnataka.

In a press conference, community leaders noted that they would file an additional petition challenging a Government Order (GO) that is expected to be passed soon based on the new formula.

The Confederation had challenged the state government's decision to provide 6-6-5 reservation for SCs based on the state Cabinet's decision on August 19, 2025. They are seeking a separate 1% reservation as promised by the 1-6-5-4-1 formula of the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission.

The current 5.25 - 5.25 - 4.5 formula is a recalibration for 15%, since the High Court has directed the government to not breach the 50% reservation ceiling set by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney Case in 1992 (the Supreme Court has not considered the 10% reservation for EWS as a breach of 50% cap).

The leaders rued that the government had failed to provide a separate 1% reservation and a special package to the 59 nomadic, semi-nomadic and highly sensitive communities despite having assured to do so on multiple occasions.

The Confederation accused the chief minister of "lying" that the nomadic communities would get a 20% reservation within group C, where they are clubbed with the relatively more forward Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities.

'Self-respect' convention

The confederation also announced that a self-respect convention would be held at the end of May to "expose" the government's "treachery" over the issue.

The forum has also reiterated its demand for a special package to strengthen the 49 nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.

Unmapped voters should seek inclusion: Chief electoral officer

'Voters not required to verify mapping themselves'

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

V ANBUKUMAR
Chief electoral officer, Karnataka

"Electors who cannot be mapped can still secure inclusion by submitting any of 11 prescribed documents. Eligible applicants may also file Form 6 with the concerned Electoral Registration Officer, either online or offline.

What should a voter in Karnataka who does not figure in the 2002 electoral rolls do to avoid exclusion or deletion during the ongoing voter mapping exercise?

Amid rising apprehensions over the ongoing voter mapping exercise in Karnataka, a precursor to the yet-to-be notified Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar, on Monday, clarified, "Electors whose names appear in both 2002 and 2025 rolls are being treated as self-mapped, while those missing from the 2002 rolls are categorised as 'progeny' linked to parents or grandparents who are enrolled as a voter in the 2002 database. However, electors who cannot be mapped through either method can still secure inclusion by submitting any of 11 prescribed documents."

The Election Commission stating that mapping is only a "table-top exercise" by the booth level officers (BLOs), has triggered concern over the absence of mandatory door-to-door verification. Also, voters are not being directly informed of their mapping status and must independently check online or track down their BLO.

"BLOs are trained to map using the 2002 and 2025 rolls. Currently, voters are not required to verify mapping themselves. However, if voters wish to check, they can download the ECI Net app, enter their EPIC number and choose to call the concerned BLO," said Anbukumar.

To a question about families that are entirely absent from the 2002 rolls and how such cases will be verified on the ground, the CEO said, "Electors who cannot be mapped can still secure inclusion by submitting any of 11 prescribed documents. Eligible applicants may also file Form 6 with the concerned Electoral Registration Officer, either online or offline," said Anbukumar.

The 11 documents permissible under SIR are birth certificate, passport, matriculation or higher-education certificate, government-issued identity card or pension order, permanent residence (domicile) certificate, forest-rights certificate, caste certificate (SC/ST/OBC), national register of citizens document, family register, Land or house-allotment certificate, and government identity documents dated before 1987. However, Aadhaar, PAN and driving licences will not be considered as standalone proof.

BEATING THE HEAT

With mercury levels going up, a tiger cools itself at a waterhole inside Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, on Monday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

CM outlines 'guarantees' to transform govt schools, colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"Our five-year vision is clear: Build the best government school system in the country. I invite parents and students to be part of this transformative journey.

The state government has laid out an eight-step path guaranteed to ensure quality education at state-run schools and colleges.

The eight steps listed by the government include ensuring no shortage of teachers at schools, free transportation for students of Karnataka Public Schools and integrating digital education for students from class one, among others. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah invited suggestions from parents and stakeholders to improve the quality of education at state-run educational institutions in a post on 'X'.

In his post on 'X', Siddaramaiah drew attention to the performance of students of government schools and PU colleges in the SSLC and second PU exams respectively.

"Admissions are now open to government schools and colleges across Karnataka. This academic year saw the state achieve a historic milestone in public education, reflected by the SSLC pass percentage (94.1%) and the performance in second PU exams (86.48%). These results reflect the growing strength of our government school system," wrote the CM.

Teacher availability, improved infrastructure, choice of medium, free transportation, digital learning, training in arts and sports, monitoring of academic quality and skill-based training, are tge eight 'guarantees' at schools, he added.

The CM is confident of the sweeping changes benefitting more than 50 lakh children, given that these are set to come into effect from the 2026-27 academic year. "Our five-year vision is clear: Build the best government school system in the country. I invite parents and students to be part of this transformative journey," said the CM.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in the education system have been called upon to share their ideas and suggestions. "Your suggestions will help us improve our services and address internal and external challenges," the government said.

Parents and stakeholders can share their inputs either on the Email ID: ED-Karnataka@Gmail.Com or on this WhatsApp number: 9448999314

HC reprimands man for capturing videos of women on Metro

BENGALURU, DHNS: "What kind of a man you are? How can you do it? You don't even leave the metro to be safe? You don't leave women to be safe anywhere," the High Court of Karnataka lashed out at a Bengaluru man while rejecting his petition challenging proceedings for uploading voyeuristic videos of women travelers on metro in social media.

The petitioner B K Diganth, 28, an accountant in a private company and a resident of Karibonahalli was arrested by the Banashankari police for recording videos of women on the Namma Metro without their consent and circulating the videos on Instagram and Telegram.

The petitioner challenged the proceedings pending before 2nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court, Bengaluru for offences punishable under BNS sections 78 (2) (stalking), 238 (C) (providing false information) and Section 67 of Information Technology Act.

"What do you do? you take the pictures of women from the backside and post on Metro_Chicks site. (an Instagram page) What nonsense is this?" Justice M Nagaprasanna orally observed as the petition came up for hearing.

At this stage, the counsel for the petitioner argued that the very investigation officer is the complainant in this case and hence the proceedings against the petitioner cannot go on. However, Justice Nagaprasanna refused to consider the said argument.

"Technicality cannot override such acts of yours. Time has come that we should stop on technicality on such things," the judge observed. When the petitioner's counsel submitted that no offence is made out against the petitioner and even the CCTVs routinely capture public at public places, the court observed, "Clicking women from behind and posting it in metro chicks is not an offence?" Justice Nagaprasanna said, while dismissing the petition at the threshold stage itself.

In May 2025, the Banashankari police had taken up a suo motu complaint after noticing videos on social media, mainly in an Instagram account – metro_chicks, with over 5,900 followers. The police investigation had revealed that the images and videos were recorded inside metro coaches and platforms. The issue had come to light when a social media user flagged the account and tagged the Bengaluru city police.

Nothing wrong if MLAs seek cabinet berths: Hebbalkar

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said that the decision regarding the change of leadership and the cabinet reshuffle would be taken by the Congress party high command.

Laxmi Hebbalkar

Speaking to reporters here on Monday, the minister said that she would be happy if more MLAs of Belagavi district, one of the state's largest districts, were made ministers during the reshuffle of the Cabinet.

Hebbalkar said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and the high command could speak on the change of leadership or cabinet reshuffle. She said she is unaware of it.

"I have been given a cabinet berth and am discharging my duties," she said.

She said there is nothing wrong on the part of the party MLAs, including those from the district, who are demanding a cabinet berth. Many seniors are yet to get a cabinet berth.

"Belagavi is a big district. Hence, I will welcome more cabinet berths for the district, but shall not take anybody's name as all of them were close to me," she said.

SC upholds acquisition of over 280 acres on Magadi Road for APMC mega market

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea by Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust against the Karnataka High Court's order upholding acquisition of around 281 acres of land on Magadi Road in Bengaluru city for establishing a mega market by the state-owned Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan found no merits in the plea filed against the High Court's judgment, which dismissed the appeal filed by Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust.

During 1994–1996, the preliminary and final notifications were issue to acquire 172.22 acres in Srigandhakaval village and 107.34 acres in Herohalli village for establishing a mega market by APMC.

The Trust had challenged the notification and after several rounds of litigations, the apex court had earlier remanded the matter back to the high court in 2022. On February 3, 2025, the single bench passed the order rejecting the petition filed by the Trust.

The single bench had noted that the representatives of the Trust, including the CEO, participated in the meeting held on September 24, 1999, chaired by the principal secretary to government, Department of Revenue, for the fixation of land value. After negotiations, it was agreed that the Trust would be paid Rs 15 lakh per acre in respect of 172 acres 4 guntas at Srigandhakaval, the single bench had noted.

Challenging this order, the Trust contended that the land is still in its possession and that the acquisition proceedings were incomplete. The Trust claimed that the APMC, which is the beneficiary of the acquisition, decided to establish the market yard at some other place.

However, the Division Bench noted that the parties had deliberations and agreed upon the quantum of compensation amount to be paid for the acquired lands, pursuant to which a substantial amount of compensation was also deposited by the APMC, and a portion of the compensation was released in favour of the Trust.

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavana, N0.43 Primrose road, Bengaluru-560025.
Ph.No: 080-29533679 Fax No:080-29533673
e-mail:gmfinancekswc@gmail.com. website:www.karnatakawarehousing.in

No:KSWC/2026-27/AUCTION-4 Dated: 27.04.2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Inviting E-Auction for as FD Investment of Provident Fund an amount of Rs.42.00 Crore of Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation.

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of opening: 24.04.2026. (2) The last date Submission: 02.05.2026 upto 5:30 P.M. (3) Date of Evaluation of Bids: 04.05.2026. (4) Live of E-Auction: 05.05.2026 Commences at 11:30 Hrs & Concludes at 12:30 Hrs (Delta Time 03 Minutes)

For more details, the bankers may refer to e-procurement website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the KSWC Office Contact No: 8088323363.

Sd/-
Managing Director

DIPR/CP/373/CCL/2026-27

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/EL/OT/WSC/2026-27/4 Dated: 25/04/2026

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).

Sl. No.: 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/EL/OT/WSC/2026-27/4 Dated: 25/04/2026. **Name of the work:** Need Based Maintenance of Secondary Fume Extraction System and PC Bay Wheel Cutting Machines. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 42,83,938.08. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 85,700/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 18/05/2026 at 10.30 Hrs. **Completion Period: 2 years.**

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MMS/2026-27/5 Dated: 27/04/2026

Sl. No.: 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/ MMS/2026-27/5 Dated: 27/04/2026. **Name of the work:** Need based replacement of filter bags, Cleaning of pleated filter bags, Cleaning of R.C.C. Tunnel of Fume extraction system no.1 and 2 and Cleaning of Duplex filters of water cooled lines of EAF -1, 2 & 3. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 7,61,055.76. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 15,200/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 19/05/2026 at 10:30 Hrs. **Completion Period: 12 months.**

This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf. indianrailways.gov.in**

Dy. CME/Melting

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ.
ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ/ಟಿ196/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27–04–2026

:: ಟೆಂಡರ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹಾಗೂ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಟೆಂಡರ KW–6ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ದರವಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಬಹುದು. (ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು–9448460271)

ಅ. ನಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ. ಎಂ. ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ
01	Construction of VDCC Bank Training Center Building at Vijayapur (Indent No : VDCCBL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT10)	3216.00	32.16	1 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **12–05–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.**
2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **14–05–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **18–05–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ.

BJP seeks cancellation of Umar Khalid event in Bengaluru

Umar Khalid, from Page 1

It is too early to say whether the event will be held or not, the police officer said.

The event would see an introduction by Clifton D'Rozario, general secretary, AILAJ, followed by a panel discussion by professor and historian Janaki Nair, writer-historian Ramachandra Guha and actor-activist Prakash Raj.

'Umar Khalid and His World: An Anthology' (2026), published by Three Essays Collective, compiles writings by and about Khalid, a former Jawaharlal Nehru University student leader known for his role in protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and proposed NRC.

Arrested in September 2020 in connection with the Delhi riots 2020 case, he remains in custody as an undertrial under provisions of the UAPA.

"Glorifying such an individual would amount to encouraging criminal elements. It is shocking that such an event is being held in our city. It is also a matter of serious concern that pro-Umar Khalid slogans and wall writings have already appeared across the city, indicating the spread of such networks," the BJP stated.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 28: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	36.8	22	12.4
Bidar	41.8	25.5	00
Vijayapura	36.9	24.5	00
Dharwad	34.8	20.5	00
Haveri	NA	NA	NA
Kalaburagi	41.8	27.8	00
Raichur	41	28	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.7	26.2	00
Karwar	36.4	27.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	35.1	29	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.8	24.3	00
Bengaluru	36	24.6	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	37.6	22.9	00
Davangere	38.5	22	00
Hassan	NA	NA	00
Mysuru	36.4	22.6	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	36.4	20.8	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	42.1	25	00
Kolkata	34.5	28	00
Mumbai	33.8	27.6	00
Chennai	38.6	27.6	00
Pune	41.8	24.7	00
Hyderabad	40	28.5	00
Th'puram	34.8	26.7	00

Local police to verify background of all homestay staff in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

The background of all staff employed by homestays across Karnataka must be verified at the local police stations, according to new guidelines issued by the Tourism Department on Monday.

The move comes days after an American tourist was allegedly drugged and sexually assaulted at a homestay in Kutta, Kodagu district. Police have arrested a Jharkhand native working as a cook at the homestay while the owner has been held for suppressing the crime.

The geographic coordinates of all registered accommodation units must be mapped as mandatory checkpoints in the Karnataka Smart E-Beat System, generating an automated GPS-verified trail of police visits. Beat constables are required to physically visit these properties, verify guest logs and officially log their visits using GPS through the application.

Verified credentials must be maintained physically or digitally at the property and made available during routine inspection by police or tourism officers.

The Department of Tourism and Police Department will work together to automate the integration between their respective databases and automate processes and information flow.

Homestays must display registration certificates and licences at the reception or main entrance in a way it is clearly visible. The department will maintain an official registered list of homestays and bed-and-breakfast establishments across the state on its website.

Tour operators, travel agents, online travel agencies and tourists have been advised to book accommodations only with registered service providers. The department will also work to establish protocols to ensure any non-compliant units are automatically and immediately delisted until compliance is restored.

Homestays must display registration certificates and licences at the reception or main entrance in a way it is clearly visible.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Emergency and helpline numbers must be displayed at the accommodation at all times. The helplines must include: Single Emergency Number:112, National Tourist Helpline Number: 1800 11-1363 or 1363 Women Safety: 181, Child Helpline: 1098 Nearest Hospital or Primary Healthcare Facility, Directors of Tourism Department, DC Office, Disaster Management Authority, Gram Panchayat, ULB Office, Sakhi One-Stop Centre.

QR codes for downloading the Karnataka State Police SOS app must be prominently displayed at reception desks. Establishment owners or staff should receive training to provide guests with information about the app during check-in.

Training must be provided to property owners, operators and managers to ensure that accommodation units accurately log data on foreigners staying at the property using the Police Department's prescribed system. Randomised checks may be conducted to ensure compliance.

By optimising the 112 helpline, police will work towards pre-populating the system with the exact geo-location data of all registered establishments. Distress calls originating from these specific coordinates will be algorithmically classified as priority tourist emergencies, triggering rapid dispatch from the nearest response vehicle.

The Department of Women and Child Development should design and deliver mandatory training for all hospitality staff on important aspects such as gender sensitisation, the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, POCSO Act, and mechanisms to deal with incidents. In the event of a crisis involving female tourists, the Sakhi One-Stop Centres should be able to provide immediate legal, medical and psychological support.

River terns shun Bhadra...

River tern, from Page 1

BTR Field Director Pulkit Meena says water levels in the reservoir remained high until the end of February. "Shrubs and grasses grew on the islands during the pre-monsoon showers, resulting in limited space for the river terns to lay their eggs. On recommendations of researchers, we cleared a patch of the island, and the birds started nesting again. Permission has been sought from higher authorities, and based on researchers' advice, we will take measures for habitat improvement."

He added that though the numbers may have declined this year, efforts will be made to ensure proper habitat management by the next season.

Govt plans 'taint points'...

Sub-registrars, from Page 1

"We want to bring transparency into these transfers. We are taking 'influence' and 'recommendations' out of the equation."

Any attempt, direct or indirect, to bring "undue influence" during transfers will be considered as misconduct, the draft rules state.

K'taka has 260 sub-registrar offices. Of them, 63 are located in Bengaluru Urban, B'luru North and B'luru South districts, which come under the BMRDA.

Iran offers to open Hormuz Strait if US lifts blockade

Iran, from Page 1

On Monday, the spot price of Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at around $108 per barrel, nearly 50 per cent higher than when the war began.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday in Saint Petersburg, Russian state news agency Tass said. Putin praised the Iranian people as "bravely and heroically fighting for their sovereignty", and said Russia would do everything possible to bring peace to the Middle East, Tass reported.

Araghchi said before the meeting in a video interview posted by Iran's state-run IRNA news agency that it was "a good opportunity for us to consult our Russian friends about the developments that have occurred in relation to the war during this period and what is happening now."

Trump told journalists Saturday that after he called off a trip by his envoys to Pakistan, Iran sent a "much better" proposal.

He did not elaborate but stressed that one of his conditions is that Iran "will not have a nuclear weapon." Iran insists its program is peaceful, but the US wants to remove Tehran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which could be used to build a bomb, should Tehran choose to pursue one.

ಕರ್ನಾಟ ಕಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಲಯ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಸಂಕಿರ್ಣ
ಡಾ॥ ರಾಜುಕುಮಾರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583102
ಸ0ಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ:ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ./.DPDO / 2026-27 DATED: 23.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

National Health Mission Ballari District have invited E-Tender for Man Power Service through Out Source, District and Talukas for various health programs from eligible agencies in a Double Cover Bid System the details can Download the Tender Documents from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
(1). Approximate of Tender value is Rs.255.29/- (Rs in lakhs)
(2). The EMD Value is Rs. 3.83/-((Rs in lakhs)
(3). Tender Documents shall download from the e-procurement portal from 22.04.2026
(4). Tender must be submitted online through e- portal on or before 07.05.2026 up to 05.00 PM.
(5) INDENT No :DHFWS/2026-27/SE2188
Further required information can be obtained from the above said office during office hours.

Sd/- DISTRICT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BALLARI
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/90

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(04E): 2026-27:JE-1 Dated: 24.04.2026

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 35595, **under the Head of Account 5054-03-101-0-02-132 Major District Roads and Bridges.** The Last date for reciept for **tender: 11.05.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**
Indent No: 35851, **under the Head of Account "5054-03-337-0-17-154 State Highway Road Improvements.** The Last date for reciept of **tender: 04.05.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**
In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.60.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 240.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW-2 & KW-4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/131/26-27 dt.27.04.2026 Sd/- Executive Engineer

Office of the Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital, Malur,Kolar District, Kolar-563 130. E-mail: admghmalur@gmail.com,
Telephone No: 08151-272923
Ref No: GHM/Outsource/nonclinical&Group-D/01/2026-27
Date: 22.04.2026

Tender Notification

Subject: General Hospital, Malur Invites E-Tender for outsourcing Non-Clinical and Group-D Services and Ready Food for Inpatients for the year 2026-27. Reference No: 1. GHM/Outsource/Group-D/01/2026-27. 2. GHM/Outsource/NOn-Clinical/02/2026-27. 3. GHM/Diet Tender/01/2025-26. General Hospital, Malur, Kolar District. Invites E-Tender for Outsourcing Vacant Group-D and Non-Clinical Services and Ready food for inpatients for the year 2026-27 through E-Tender only. Interested & Registered organizations can participate in E-Tender. Tender can be submitted through this website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (1) Tender Uploading Date: 22.04.2026. (2) Last Date for submission of Tender through E-protal Date: 21.05.2026, 5:00 P.M (2) Opening of E-Tender Technical Bid Date: 25.05.2026, 11:00 A.M (3) Further Details can be obtained from the Hospital Office.

sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital, Malur.

DIPR/KOLAR/RO.50/KSMCA/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/BGKT/Tr(OP)Z/SEE(O)/AEE-7/2026-27/1945-52 Date: 27.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites Tender for procurement for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of 110kV Current Transformers of following Ratios with terminal connectors and marshalling box required for replacement / keeping spare to utilize in case of emergency at various sub-stations in the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Zone, Bagalkote conforming to KPTCL Technical specification F.O.R.D at store/ site basis including Insurance, transportation and unloading.

1) Tender Enquiry No. KPTCL/2026-27/IND0301 for 110kV Current Transformers of **Ratio 200-100/1-1-1A-30 no's.**

2) Tender Enquiry No. KPTCL/2026-27/IND0302 for 110kV Current Transformers of **Ratio 400-200/1-1-1A- 30 no's.**

The tender will be received through "KPPP Portal" only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.04.2026, 04.30 pm**. onwards and last date for receipt of tender is **14.05.2026 up to 04.30 pm.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Near Sector No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details		
1	Name of work	Providing Basket Ball & Lawn Tennis Courts in Golden Jubilee Complex at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-37	Improvement of Compound Wall and Provision of Water Taps at DOS/ISRO Housing Colony, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, Bengaluru	Contract for Hiring of Shamiyana and other Allied Items for Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura and ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/08/2026-27, Dt.24/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/09/2026-27, Dt.27/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/10/2026-27, Dt.27/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 24.02 Lakhs	₹ 23.05 Lakhs	₹ 12.37 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Two Months	Eight Months	Twelve Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 48,040/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 46,100/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 24,740/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/- Group Director, C&MG, URSC

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. Email:bswmlee4@gmail.com
No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFT) SHORT TERM BID NOTIFICATION (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The **Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Bid Document	Stipulated completion period (including monsoon period)
1	Turnkey Lumpsum, Fixed Price No Variation Tender Based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Design, Construction, Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of 4 nos. of Transfer Station having closed compaction system for handling 260-265 TPD of MSW at selected locations of Hebbal, Pulikeshi Nagar, C.V.Raman Nagar and Shanthi Nagar. Package-1 (CALL-3).	4442.75	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.43,42,750/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank	As per KPP portal	9 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **06.05.2026 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/ documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal **https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document **on or before 16:00 hours of 15.05.2026.** The Technical bids will be opened through kpp-portal only on **16.05.2026 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue. through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/ 22373788. The bidders are required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML
DIPR/CP/AAA/379/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, BSCC, Amruthnagara - Konanakunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-560062.
No: EE/UAD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 27-04-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Single Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli and Anjanapura Division, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Gottigere Sub Division (Ward No. 38 and 39 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(CAT-II(A)) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 6,250.00**
2	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Naganathapura Sub Division (Ward No. 33, 34 & 35 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(SC) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 9,375.00**
3	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Beguru Sub Division (Ward No. 36 and 37 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(Others) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 12,500.00**
4	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Bhireshwaranagara Sub Division (Ward No. 41, 42 and 43 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(Others) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 18,750.00**
5	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Anjanapura Sub Division (Ward No. 40 and 52 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(Others) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 12,500.00**
6	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Konanakunte Sub Division (Ward No. 44, 45 & 48 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(ST) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 9,375.00**
7	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Yalachenahalli Sub Division (Ward No. 46 & 47 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(Others) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 12,500.00**
8	Establishment of Temporary Mansoon Control Room in Uttarahalli Sub Division (Ward No. 49, 50 & 51 - each Ward 2.50 Lakhs). **(Others) - Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs. in): 18,750.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-04-2026. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Filled Tender Documents is **08-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **11-05-2026 after 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, BSCC.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/EE/Amrut 2.0/RI/01/2026-27 Date 27.04.2026.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 01 /AMRUT 2.0/ 2026-27

Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 01 **Tender cum Reverse Auction** as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for Goods in KG-2 Tender bid documents under Reform Incentive Component under AMRUT 2.0 scheme for 15 Days Short Term Tender.

The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **Rs. 790.00 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: Rs. 11,71,700.00. 4) Contractor License: Firm Registration, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **05.05.2026 at 11-30 am.** 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **12.05.2026 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **13.05.2026 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **16.05.2026 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/82/KSMC&A/2026-27 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಮಾಮಮಮ&ಪಜಾ.ಪಪಂಯೋ/2026–27/ 175 ದಿ: 27.04.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-2, & 3 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1) ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೊಂಬಳಕಲ್ ಬಲಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆಯ ಮಾರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22817/ CALL-2 Others (2) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಡಿ. ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21785/CALL-2 (CAT-II(A) Bidders Only) **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:**2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು 2025 26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 25.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 29.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 08.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 08.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):** 11.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 2):** 11.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9.00 ನಂತರ **10) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್(ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):**15.05.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **11) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **12) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

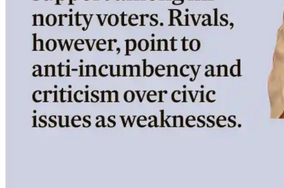
ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/39/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

They (Centre) have deprived us of Rs 1 lakh crore in central dues. Take the money from BJP and vote for TMC
Political Theatre
Common people of Bengal saying no to fear, yes to BJP's 'bharosa'

Meet the leaders

Biman Banerjee
Trinamool Congress
Baruipur Paschim South 24 Parganas



Senior TMC leader Biman Banerjee is among the most experienced faces in Bengal politics, having served as the Speaker of the assembly since 2011 while representing the Baruipur Paschim assembly seat in South 24 Parganas district. A lawyer by profession, Banerjee began his political journey with the Congress before switching to the TMC in 1998. Since then, Banerjee has presided over the House for three consecutive terms.

Firhad Hakim
Trinamool Congress
Kolkata Port

As a senior TMC leader and Kolkata mayor, Firhad Hakim is expected to play a significant role in the elections. He represents the Kolkata Port constituency, a politically important seat in central Kolkata. In the 2021 polls, Hakim won the seat by over 68,000 votes. His strengths include organisational control in Kolkata and support among minority voters. Rivals, however, point to anti-incumbency and criticism over civic issues as weaknesses.

Trivia

The Leaders of the Opposition in the previous two West Bengal state assemblies lost their elections. Surya Kant Mishra, the CPM leader and former Panchayati Raj minister who became LoP after the Left Front lost power in 2011, was defeated in the 2016 polls. He was succeeded by Abdul Mannan of the Congress, who was pushed to the third position by TMC and BJP candidates in the 2021 elections. The leader of the Opposition in the current Assembly is Suvendu Adhikari, the BJP's de facto chief ministerial face. Suvendu defeated Mamata Banerjee in the 2021 election from Nandigram.

South 24 Parganas showdown: BJP makes big push into Trinamool turf

Saffron camp looks to make gains in Muslim-dominated district that has historically backed Mamata's party

FROM THE GROUND

KALYAN RAY
BASANTI, DHNS

Outside Kolkata's New Town, the skyline is dotted with brick-kiln chimneys, while the landscape below is dominated by fish farms. Most of these, residents say, are illegal and controlled by local politicians from the ruling party.

Welcome to South 24 Parganas district, where the Trinamool Congress captured 30 of 31 seats in the 2021 Assembly polls, with the lone remaining seat going to the Indian Secular Front. In 2016, Mamata Banerjee's party had won 29 seats, while the CPM bagged two.

This time, the principal challenger BJP faces one of its most intense poll battles in a district that stretches from Jadavpur, Behala and Tollygunj in southern Kolkata to Budge Budge, Diamond Harbour, Basanti, Canning and Gosaba in the Sundarban.

"Everyone here knows who is behind these illegal brick kilns and fish farms, but no one speaks out of fear. With one licence, they set up multiple units in complete violation of the rules," said Manoj Bose, a local resident.

While muscle power and voter intimidation have long been reported from South 24 Paraganas, this time, the Special Intensive Revision will play a key role in the minority-dominated district, which leads the state in logical discrepancies, including over 9.3 lakh forms flagged for mismatches in fathers' names.

Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee greets the gathering during a campaign for the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Maheshtala, South 24 Parganas district. PTI

WEST BENGAL Assembly Poll

In a major security incident, the National Investigation Agency registered a case following the recovery of 79 crude bombs in Bhangar — the only seat not won by the TMC in 2021.

On high alert

Security agencies are on high alert after violent scuffles involving Trinamool Congress, BJP and ISF supporters were reported in Haroa. Chances of poll violence are high in the district.

The BJP was not at all a force here in 2016, but surged ahead in 2021, securing almost 32% of votes to position itself as the second-largest, ahead of the Left Front.

Since 2021, the BJP has seen localised gains; in some specific booths across the region, its vote share rose from approximately 43% in 2021 to over 53% by the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The saffron party continues to lag in South 24 Parganas compared to other parts of Bengal, largely due to the district's high concentration of Muslim voters (over 30% in most seats), who have historically consolidated behind the TMC.

Aware of this drawback, top BJP leaders like Narendra Modi and Amit Shah addressed multiple rallies and roadshows to drum up support for their candidates.

"It will not be a cakewalk for the TMC this time," said Swapan Mandal, a schoolteacher in Gosaba.

Infighting within the TMC, which led the party to replace sitting MLAs such as Jogranjan Haldar in Kulpi and Alok Jaldar in Raidighi, may provide the BJP with an added advantage.

A third dimension is added by the Left Front. In Raidighi, the CPM has fielded veteran leader Kanti Ganguly's son Samya Ganguly, who is running a spirited campaign, banking on his father's goodwill and the Left's vote bank.

Elsewhere in the district, senior Left leader and former Kolkata Mayor Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya is locked in a three-cornered contest against incumbent Debabrata Majumdar of the TMC and Sarbori Mukherjee of the BJP in Jadavpur.

"A split in anti-TMC votes between the CPM and BJP will decide his fate," said a resident of Santoshpur, part of the Jadavpur constituency.

CRUCIAL CONTEST

- Trinamool Congress swept 30 of 31 seats in 2021
- BJP now mounts its fiercest challenge in the district
- From 2021 to 2024, BJP's vote share has surged in some booths
- Muslim voters continue to consolidate behind TMC
- Modi and Shah lead rallies; locals feel it won't be a cakewalk for TMC

It's battleground Bhabanipur & Mamata is confident of victory

TMC roadshows crowd-pullers, but BJP too flexed muscle with heavyweight campaigners

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
BHABANIPUR (KOLKATA), DHNS

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee with party leaders during a roadshow for the Assembly elections, in Kolkata. PHOTO CREDIT: JAYANTA SHAW

BJP's Suvendu Adhikari on last day of campaigning in Bhabanipur.

She waves at the crowds along the road, cheering "Didi...Didi...Didi", folds her hands, and often breaks her security cordon to greet people and have a quick exchange of pleasantries.

Mamata Banerjee is back in Bhabanipur, her constituency, after crisscrossing West Bengal for more than a month, campaigning for Trinamool Congress candidates.

She addressed two to three rallies every day over the past several weeks, leaving it to Firhad Hakim, the Mayor of Kolkata and a minister in her Cabinet, and other trusted lieutenants to hold the fort for her in Bhabanipur — a task that, if it were before December 2020, would almost certainly have been entrusted to Suvendu Adhikari.

But now, Adhikari is taking on Mamata. Her aide-turned-adversary has emerged as BJP's de facto chief ministerial candidate.

Suvendu is contesting from Nandigram in Purba Medinipur — the constituency where he had beaten Mamata narrowly in 2021. BJP fielded him against the TMC supremo in her home turf, Bhabanipur, too. Bhabanipur will vote on April 29, along with 141 other constituencies.

The campaigning has been as cantankerous in Bhabanipur as it has been in the 293 other constituencies across the state.

"The *gaddar* (traitor) has brought in several hundred crores of rupees to buy votes in Bhabanipur," Mamata takes a not-so-veiled dig at Suvendu, as she addresses a rally not very far from Hazra More, where she had come under attack and suffered a serious head injury while leading a Congress protest against the Left Front government in 1990.

She quotes "some people" of Chetla, a neighbourhood in the constituency, telling her: "Didi we have received money from the BJP, but would vote for you, as always". "Please don't forget Bhabanipur is Bhabanipur".

Mamata recently left a TMC rally at Chakraberia in Bhabanipur midway, alleging that the volume of the amplifiers blaring the BJP's campaign song during a road show of Suvendu nearby was deliberately raised to drown out her voice. She came back to the location the next day and led a 'padayatra' with huge crowds, not only following her, but also on both sides of the roads.

Suvendu had Home Minister Amit Shah accompanying him in the road show when he went to file the nomination as a BJP candidate in Bhabanipur.

"A victory in Bhabanipur will give the BJP a shortcut to power in West Bengal," said Shah.

No wonder then, not only Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but several other BJP heavyweights campaigned in the constituency for Suvendu.

"The party Mamata leads is a party of thieves and lowlifes," says Suvendu during a road show in Bhabanipur.

"Vote in large numbers, you have to help me defeat Mamata with a huge margin," he urges people, as the crowd raises 'Paltano Darkar Tai BJP Sarkar' (We need change, and that's why we need a BJP government) slogan.

Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, a senior TMC leader, won from Bhabanipur in 2021, but he resigned, necessitating a bypoll in October 2021. Mamata won the bypoll. She had earlier won from Bhabanipur in 2011 and 2016.

"They (the Election Commission) deleted a large number of voters in Bhabanipur to ensure my defeat. But I will still win," says Mamata.

Trinamool MP attacked, CISF jawan shot in separate incidents of pre-poll violence

KOLKATA, DHNS: A Trinamool Congress MP was allegedly attacked and a CISF jawan was shot in separate incidents of violence in southern West Bengal, where elections will be held in the second phase on Wednesday.

In Hooghly district, Arambagh MP Mitali Bag alleged that BJP workers vandalised her vehicle at Goghat while she was on her way to attend a rally of party leader Abhishek Banerjee on Monday.

Bag claimed that she came under attack near a BJP office and suffered injuries from the shattered windowpane of her vehicle. She alleged that despite being a Dalit woman, she was targeted by "hooligans sheltered by the fascist BJP".

She was later admitted to the Arambagh hospital for treatment. Banerjee condemned the attack, stating that the people of the state would give a befitting reply to the BJP.

The BJP denied the allegations, calling the episode a "drama" and instead accusing TMC supporters of attacking its leader. An Election Commission official said a report had been sought on the matter, and CCTV footage from the area was being examined.

In another incident, a CISF jawan was injured in a firing outside the residence of BJP candidate Pawan Singh in the Bhatpara area of North 24 Parganas district late on Sunday night.

The injured personnel, identified as Yogesh Sharma, sustained a bullet injury in his leg and was hospitalised. The poll panel has sought a report on the incident.

Police said tension was building up in the area since the evening after a Trinamool Congress worker was allegedly assaulted by a group of men while putting up party flags and banners. Several TMC leaders reached the local police station to lodge a complaint.

In the Habra constituency of the district, eight crude bombs were recovered from the premises of a school designated as a polling booth, triggering panic in the area.

Polling personnel along with security forces travel by boat in riverine areas ahead of the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in North 24 Parganas district. PTI

Women lead voter turnout in Tamil Nadu polls

Women voters outnumbered men in exercising their franchise on April 23, with over 2.52 crore women, constituting nearly 86.2% of the total female electorate in Tamil Nadu, casting their votes enthusiastically.

The male electorate that voted stood at 2.35 crore, accounting for 83.96% of the total male electorate in the state, an official said on Monday.

TN witnessed an impressive turnout, with over 4.87 crore electors voting across all 234 Assembly constituencies. This included 4,517 third-gender voters, representing 58.44% of the registered third-gender electorate. The state recorded an estimated overall turnout of 85.1%.

Tamil Nadu has an electorate strength of 5.73 crore, comprising 2.93 crore women, 2.83 crore men, and 7,728 third-gender persons. It also includes 14.59 lakh first-time voters. A total of 4,023 candidates, including a large number of Independents, contested from the 234 constituencies.

About 24.22 lakh votes were polled in Chennai district, which has 16 Assembly constituencies. According to a source in the Greater Chennai Corporation, the overall turnout in the district was 83.71%. Perambur recorded the highest turnout, with 2.03 lakh votes polled (89.73%), followed by Kolathur with 1.82 lakh (86.11%).

AAP cries foul, moves to block MPs' switch to BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will move court if the seven former party MPs are not disqualified under the anti-defection law, said its Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh even as the Upper House Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Monday gave a go-ahead for their merger with BJP.

The merger decision came a day after Singh, who is AAP's Rajya Sabha floor leader, petitioned Radhakrishnan, seeking the disqualification of the seven MPs citing the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution dealing with defections.

With the merger, the saffron party's strength in the Upper House increases to 113, 10 short of the majority mark of 123 in a House of 245.

The AAP is left with three members — Singh, ND Gupta and Sant Balbir Singh.

The seven MPs — Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Vikramjit Sahney, Swati Maliwal and Rajinder Gupta — are now listed among the BJP lawmakers in the 'Party Position in the Rajya Sabha (As on April 24)'.

They have claimed that they are more than two-third of the Parliamentary party, and hence, escape disqualification proceedings. However, AAP's argument was that the 'original party' did not merge as mentioned in the Tenth Schedule.

'Unauthorised alteration'

Meanwhile, Singh shot off a letter to the Upper House Secretary General seeking clarification on the "unauthorised alteration" of party position in the records without consultations.

Singh claimed that the official records were "altered unilaterally without prior intimation or concurrence" of AAP or its floor leader. The AAP leader also demanded an immediate inquiry into this.

Lotus to 'lootus'

Responding to the development, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said, it was "not at all surprising" and the "only surprise" was that it took "so long and was not formally accepted over the weekend".

He said on X, "The ED was raiding some of these MPs until recently but one can bet that those will also come to a stop now. And the ED raids that may well have taken place against some others will of course no longer happen. It is therefore both a surgical strike and a pre-emptive action. Lotus has become 'Lootus'."

House 'numbers'

NDA now has 149 members, including seven nominated and two independent MPs, on its side with non-BJP parties accounting for 27 MPs — AIADMK 5, JD(U) 4, NCP 4, TDP, Shiv Sena and UPPL (2 each) and RPI(A), JD(S), AGP, NPP, MNF, RLD, RLM and PMK (one each).

The Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc has 75 MPs — Congress 29, Trinamool Congress 13, DMK 8, SP 4, RJD, CPM and National Conference (3 each), JMM and Muslim League (2 each) and NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT), Kerala Congress (M), DMDK, MNM and Independent (one each).

AAP'S POSERS TO RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

- On what date and on what basis has the party position of the AAP been altered in the records and publications of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, and which is the competent authority that has approved or sanctioned such alteration? What are the specific reasons recorded thereof?
- Details regarding the procedure adopted before effecting such changes in the absence of any consultation with the party
- Demands clarity on the current officially recorded position of the AAP in the Rajya Sabha, including the number of Members reflected under the party's name and the designation of the Floor Leader.

'Non-application of mind': HC quashes PSA detention of AAP legislator

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on Monday quashed the detention of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA) holding that an elected representative cannot be preventively detained merely for "hurting the feelings" of officials. The court termed such use of the law as a "shortcut" outside due process.

Malik, the lone AAP legislator from Doda and the party's J&K unit president, was detained on September 8, 2025, under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on allegations of activities prejudicial to public order. He had been lodged in Kathua district jail since his arrest.

Allowing a habeas corpus petition filed by Malik, the High Court set aside the detention order, ruling that it could not be sustained in law and paving the way for his release, subject to any other cases.

Mehraj Malik

In its judgment, the court came down heavily on the detaining authority, observing that preventive detention is an exceptional measure and cannot be invoked as a substitute for ordinary criminal law.

It held that the grounds of detention reflected non-application of mind and were based on vague and extraneous considerations, noting that "you cannot jail an MLA for hurting your feelings".

The court also underscored that the "subjective satisfaction" required under the PSA must be backed by credible material demonstrating a real threat to public order, not mere apprehensions or personal grievances of officials.

The case had been under consideration for several months, with the court reserving its judgment on February 23 after hearing arguments from both sides.

Malik's detention had drawn significant attention as he became the first sitting MLA in Jammu & Kashmir to be booked under the PSA, a law that permits detention without trial for extended periods.

His arrest had triggered protests in parts of Jammu, particularly in his home district of Doda, and prompted criticism from opposition parties over the use of preventive detention against an elected representative.

DECCAN HERALD
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West Asia deadlock deepens India's risks

Two months after the United States and Israel launched an unprovoked attack on Iran, and after multiple rounds of talks, peace and stability remain elusive. While the Islamabad-brokered two-week ceasefire brought respite, the current truce is fragile at best. Iran's partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital channel through which about 20% of global oil supplies pass, has been countered by a total blockade of the strait by the US. Both sides have made threats and counter-threats, and tensions have been building since then. The conflict has once again placed the spotlight on the inability of global bodies such as the United Nations to restrain nations that do not respect international law, especially Israel. It has also exposed the limitations of regional forums such as NATO and BRICS. Given this gloom and doom, any effort to dial down the tensions must be welcomed.

A recent IMF report highlights the global economic pressure caused by this conflict. It notes that in a 'more severe scenario' where energy prices further increase, and energy infrastructure is further damaged, the impact on Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) 'would be almost twice that of advanced economies.' In other words, the longer the conflict, the greater the impact on countries like India. For India, the risks include rising energy prices threatening retail inflation, which will feed into consumer goods, fertilisers, and transport, and subdued capital inflows weakening the rupee, thereby further raising import bills. The country's strong foreign exchange reserves and low current account deficit offer short-term relief, but prolonged uncertainty could decelerate growth momentum and weaken fiscal balance. Of particular concern are the lives and livelihoods of over 10 million Indians in the region.

The extended fuel blockade necessitates a diversification of supply and bolder strategic play

This conflict has been a wake-up call for energy-importing countries, including India: a reminder to diversify supply networks away from overreliance on the Gulf region, to increase strategic energy reserves, and to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy. New Delhi's diplomatic heft must be put to work to secure shipping lanes to ensure a steady flow of fuel. It is in everybody's interest that this conflict comes to an end, and that too soon. When it happens, India must be prepared to engage with the region's new realities. In prioritising its interests, one such decision will be how New Delhi envisages its ties with Tehran vis-à-vis sanction threats from the US. Will India buy oil from Iran? Will it continue its operations at the Chabahar port? India will have to take bold decisions.

No excuses: Bengaluru can't afford poll delay

The move to once again postpone elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority – the successor to the BBMP – is a calculated subversion of constitutional democracy. Bengaluru last voted for its civic body in August 2015, and the council's term ended in September 2020. In the six years since, governance has been suspended, first under the pretext of ward delimitation and, then, under the guise of restructuring the BBMP. The Supreme Court, recognising this drift, drew a firm line by directing that elections be completed by June 30 and warning that no further extensions would be entertained. Yet, in a telling display of institutional evasion, the State Election Commission (SEC) has approached the Court, citing a lack of funds and the government's request to postpone polls until September 30, ostensibly due to ongoing census duties and the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. These are not reasons; they are recycled excuses.

The apex court has repeatedly affirmed that Articles 243-E and 243-U mandate the timely installation of elected local bodies every five years. In *Kishan Singh Tomar vs. Municipal Corporation of Ahmedabad* (2006), it ruled that the election schedule is "mandatory" and cannot be deferred for administrative reasons. This position was reaffirmed in *Suresh Mahajan vs. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022), where a three-judge Bench ruled that ongoing delimitation or reorganisation cannot stall elections, which must proceed on an "as is where is" basis. The Court further stated that financial constraints are no defence – the State is duty-bound to provide the necessary resources to the EC. It also held that the SEC must proceed with elections without waiting for the state government to complete delimitation or ward mapping, to prevent a "hiatus in governance".

Deferring the GBA election despite a Supreme Court deadline is an evasion of institutional accountability

What is unfolding in Bengaluru is precisely the constitutional mischief the 73rd and 74th Amendments sought to prevent. By prolonging the administrator rule, the State has effectively hollowed out the third tier of governance, depriving citizens of elected representation at the grassroots. This is a democratic deficit with real consequences for accountability, urban planning, and civic services. The Supreme Court must view this petition with the scepticism it deserves. To grant another extension would be to legitimise deliberate delay. Instead, the Court should enforce its deadline with rigour and, if necessary, initiate contempt proceedings against those responsible for this prolonged defiance. Bengaluru cannot remain a city governed by bureaucratic fiat. The restoration of an elected civic body is a constitutional imperative that can brook no further delay.

ROAD TO REGULATION

Can AERB power India's nuclear ambition?

The Board must sharpen expertise and build a safety culture, tuning oversight to the realities of a new nuclear era

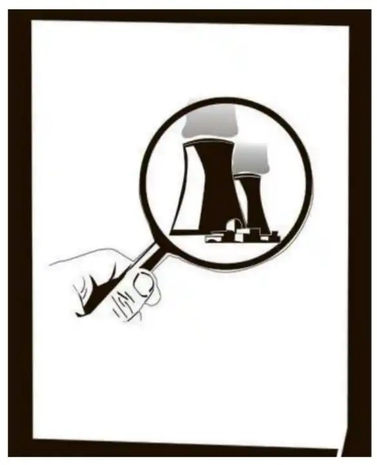
A R SUNDARARAJAN

One major step in reaching India's goal of net-zero emissions by 2070 is to build 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047. The recently passed SHANTI Act (2025), while opening the nuclear sector to private companies, has granted statutory powers to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). So far, the AERB has depended extensively on the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for many of its functions, particularly for the supply of human resources. Now that the AERB has statutory independence, it must demonstrate functional independence.

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) reports that achieving the stated goal of nuclear power output requires the judicious deployment of both conventional large nuclear power plants (700-1,200 MWe) in a few sites and small modular reactors (SMRs, 55-300 MWe) in 20 to 30 sites, spread across the country, mostly owned and operated by private companies. SMRs can be located at brownfield sites for repurposing retiring fossil fuel plants and as captive power plants in energy-intensive industries. The ability of private parties to secure large financial resources and their culture of time-bound implementation are often cited as the main arguments for their entry into the nuclear sector. Given that they are dipping their toes into a high-risk sector that demands a safety culture resistant to commercial incentives to cut corners, the question remains whether they will meet public expectations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) defines safety culture as the core value and behaviour, resulting from a collective commitment by leaders and individuals to emphasise safety over competing goals to ensure protection of people and the environment. The DAE has, over the years, assiduously nurtured this culture among its units; clearly, it will take some time before the new market entrants imbibe it in their domain. Regulatory authorities in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan have resident inspectors in their nuclear power plants providing daily oversight and ensuring compliance with national safety regulations. The AERB currently does not appoint resident inspectors but conducts periodic inspections of the plants. In view of multiple plants likely to come up in different parts of the country, the AERB will have to appoint resident inspectors to ensure total compliance with the regulations.

Its first task will be to formulate the code requirements for SMRs. These reactors come with the claim that their passive safety features eliminate the need for emergency intervention in the public domain and that the current no-population zone of 1 km can be reduced to 500 metres. The new code



will have to redefine these stipulations. There are myriad SMR designs in the international market, most of which have no operational grounding. The AERB may have to come out with safety codes and guidelines for generic SMRs without waiting for the application for a specific SMR proposal.

Currently, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), after receiving a site allotted to it by the DAE, seeks from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) the environmental clearance and from the AERB the consent for the plant. The MoEFCC guidance manual for preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report is based on practices envisioned for larger plants and needs a revision for SMRs, in particular, on the extent of the environmental monitoring zone.

Upgrading competence

The manual requires pre-operational radioactivity measurements of the environmental matrices—such as water, soil, milk, and agricultural products—up to a distance of 30 km around the site. One of the AERB's siting requirements is to establish an environmental survey laboratory before construction begins. This laboratory can provide the required pre-operational radiological data of the environment. As radiological safety is the AERB's mandate, it is recommended that the MoEFCC does not seek pre-operational radiological data at the time of application for approval.

Radiation protection regulations require periodic monitoring of radiation workers, including external and internal dose monitoring. The AERB has to formulate policies and procedures to grant accreditation to such state-of-the-art radiation dosimetry laboratories with highly skilled scientists. Apart from nuclear and radiation safety, industrial safety and hygiene will also come under the AERB's purview as per the new Act. This implies the AERB must enhance its industrial safety section to meet the additional mandate.

The SHANTI Act prescribes financial penalties for four categories – ranging from minor to severe – for breaches and violations of the Act. Categorising regulatory violations and assigning penalties are challenging tasks, considering the wide spectrum of licensees, which includes industrial radiographers, X-ray diagnostic facilities, radiation therapy centres, and nuclear power plant operators. This new provision will also result in several litigation cases, thus warranting the setup of a professional legal cell at the AERB.

Clearly, there is a dire need to augment the AERB's technical competence and staff strength to eliminate regulatory delays. In a technology as unforgiving as nuclear power, the regulatory body should not suffer the familiar malady of staff shortage in government departments. It is worth noting that India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) faces significant staff shortages. The AERB should leverage the enabling provisions of the SHANTI Act and lose no time in making a shift in its organisational structure towards reaching the 100-GWe target within the next two decades.

(The writer is a former director [Radiological Safety], Atomic Energy Regulatory Board)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Beards of dissent, fabric of unity

Talking to a former colleague reminded me just how original our protest was

PRAKASH JOTHADY

How do I even start this story? Let me take you on a little adventure I had at the Bengaluru airport recently. Picture this: I'm breezing through security, feeling like a million bucks, and after I clear the metal detector (thankfully, my belt buckle didn't set it off this time), I casually scroll through my phone. That's when I notice a woman sitting next to me. At first, I thought, "Who is this stranger?" But then it hit me like a tonne of bricks—I knew her!

Yes! It was none other than Priya, my coworker from the glorious 1980s. Can you believe it? The moment I locked eyes with her, she recognised me faster than I recognised my own reflection in a fun-house mirror. We ended up diving into a delightful conversation over coffee, and I couldn't help but grin like a kid in a candy store.

As we chatted, we started reminiscing about the good old days when we were young, energetic, and probably a bit reckless at work. "Remember those protests we organised to raise our dearness allowance?" I asked. "Management just ignored our pleas like we were trying to sell them a used car."

Priya nodded knowingly. "We came up with a rather creative protest to uphold our international company's ethics. We called it 'No DA, No Shave.' The guys grew beards that would make Santa jealous, and the women wore the same outfit every day for an entire week."

I asked her, "How did the women feel about wearing one dress all week? Wasn't that a little... monotonous?"

"Believe it or not, everyone was on board! They thought it was the best way to protest. We kept it going for months."

Then one fine day, our parent company sent visitors to check in, and our local administration practically begged us to stop the demonstration while they were there. But we flat-out refused, like a toddler refusing to eat their vegetables. The visitors were shocked by our unusual form of protest. They appreciated our sincerity but didn't know whether to laugh or call HR. Meanwhile, we were steadfast, growing our beards and proudly wearing our matching outfits. Finally, after months of negotiation, our local management raised the dearness allowance to match the other branches. It was a glorious win for us!

I nodded, feeling a warm wave of nostalgia wash over me. Yes! Talking to Priya reminded me just how original and fresh those times were. It brought back so many memories, and I have to say, I never thought I'd miss the days of questionable fashion choices and even more questionable protest strategies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Of PM's campaign role and constitutional propriety

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been spending a considerable amount of time in election campaigning. He and Amit Shah seem to be the principal campaigners for the BJP in almost every election. Campaigning should primarily be the task of party organisational leaders, whose main responsibility is to lead election efforts. It may be appropriate for the PM and Union ministers to involve themselves only during general elections. Intensive and hectic campaigning by the PM in every election reduces the dignity of the office. A question also arises: if the prime minister is engaged in campaigning most of the time, will it not affect his impartiality and fairness in the discharge of his duties, as he may appear to be the representative and spokesperson of one party? Will such hectic campaigning not come in the way of the normal discharge of his responsibilities as the PM? There is also the possibility of misuse of office during campaigning. BJP leaders often say that PM Modi has not taken a single day's leave since assuming office in 2014. Is he performing official duties when he is campaigning for his party? Should he not apply for leave when immersed in campaigning?
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Selective accountability

The recent defection of seven AAP MPs to the BJP via a loophole in the Tenth Schedule highlights a troubling trend yet again: the weaponisation of investigative agencies to engineer an opposition-*mukt* Bharat. For over a decade, we have witnessed a political "washing machine", where corruption charges act as a litmus test only for those in the opposition. The moment such tainted leaders switch to the treasury benches, their transgressions vanish. When agency action stalls following a change of party, it suggests that corruption is a crime only for those who refuse to defect. For a healthy democracy, the law must remain blind to party flags; otherwise, institutional credibility is sacrificed for mere legislative strength.
S Padmanabhan, Kochi

Rai's enduring vision

Apropos 'Raghu Rai: The photographer as an artist' (Apr 27). The passing of the master lensman is not just the loss of a celebrated photographer but of a conscience that revealed India's soul through images. His camera chronicled wars, tragedies, leaders, and ordinary lives with clarity and compassion, reminding us that history is seen as much as it is written. Rai's portraits of figures like Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama stood alongside his documentation of the Bhopal gas tragedy and the Bangladesh refugee crisis, each frame carrying meaning beyond the moment. What made his work enduring was his ability to find dignity in the overlooked and artistry in the everyday. His legacy lies in teaching generations to look closely and honestly and to understand life through light and shade.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

It (AAP) has become a toxic work environment where leaders are stopped from working and speaking in Parliament. Today, this political party is trapped in the hands of some corrupt and compromised people... That's why I, not alone, but along with six other MPs, decided to break the relationship with this party.

Raghav Chadha (on joining the BJP)

When power is the prize, principles are the price.

Eric Hoffler

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Who will judge the judges?

Recusal jurisprudence needs a fairness push. Judges cannot decide on their own bias as perceived by the litigants

ANSHUL DALMIA

Recently, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in a detailed order, denied Arvind Kejriwal's request for recusal. While this judgment might be a passionate cry against politicising the courts, it provides a window into the deeper problems and structures that plague recusal jurisprudence in India. Beneath the rhetoric of judicial independence lies a framework that allows judges to decide their own impartiality, raising uncomfortable questions about fairness and accountability.

Recusal jurisprudence is primarily influenced by legal precedents due to the lack of any law or guideline governing judicial disqualifications. This absence has led to a scenario where tests to regulate judges' conduct are formulated by judges themselves. This vacuum can be attributed to a vigilante judiciary that strikes down any law which attempts to govern or streamline its functioning. Courts use the grounds of judicial independence to render legislation and amendments unconstitutional.

The question is about fairness – the judge assesses the allegation, applies the legal test, and decides whether to step aside. In effect, the system asks a judge to be a judge in their own cause. This violates a basic principle of natural justice. Disqualification is needed to prevent and intercept judges who have a particular 'bent of mind'. This is required to promote the appearance of justice and restore faith in judicial administration. Such a framework does not reasonably account for the litigant's faith in judicial administration.

If a court cannot be the first place where justice appears to be achieved transparently and fairly, it will largely affect public expectations. Judges need to acknowledge that recusal petitions are not always admitted to malign them. The innate structures of the court instead purport a sense of injustice being perpetrated. Compromising the constitutional right to a fair trial and being outright dismissive of petitions hampers the perception of governance.

Justice Sharma's judgment illustrates another concern: the choice of legal test. She uses the 'real danger' test to refuse recusal. This test, laid down in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India*, states that disqualification can occur solely on substantive and tangible evidence that conclusively highlights the presence of judicial bias and prejudice. Recusal must happen on the *possibility* of bias and not its mere probability.

This sets an extremely high threshold, almost impossible for a litigant to meet. Bias, by its very nature, is rarely visible. It operates internally, shaped by experience, perception, and subconscious influence. At best, only circumstantial evidence may be gathered, which might hint towards the presence of bias. Litigants cannot access a judge's state of mind. Expecting "real danger" to be proven through hard evidence misunderstands how bias works. Such a high burden forces litigants to compromise their perception of justice.

A sharper scrutiny

A more appropriate standard is the "reasonable apprehension" test – whether a fair-minded observer would reasonably suspect bias. This shifts the focus from proof to perception. It acknowledges that justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done. It places the litigant's perspective at the centre, rather than treating recusal as a personal affront to judicial integrity.

The inconsistency of a self-evolving jurisprudence has allowed the court to mould the parameters according to its convenience. Litigants face a system where raising a recusal plea is itself an uphill battle: one that risks being seen as forum-shopping or an attempt to delay proceedings. While such misuse is a legitimate concern, it cannot justify a framework that effectively shuts out genuine claims. If anything, the current approach risks the opposite problem. It creates the impression that judges are insulated from scrutiny, and that the system prioritises institutional comfort over litigant confidence: a dangerous perception for any constitutional court.

The solution does not lie in weakening judicial independence, but in strengthening procedural fairness. Recusal decisions could be placed before a different bench, or, at least, involve other judges. Most importantly, courts must move towards standards that recognise how bias is perceived, not just how it is proven.

At stake is not the reputation of individual judges, but the credibility of the institution. When judges decide their own recusal using standards that are nearly impossible to meet, the process begins to look closed, even if it is not. A justice system that asks for trust must first make space for doubt and address it transparently. Until then, recusal in India will remain less about fairness and more about faith.

(The writer teaches Constitutional Law at the Jindal Global Law School)

India's shadow classrooms: Who gets to learn after school?

MITUL SURANA

Every evening, across India, millions of students leave school only to head to another classroom, whether a tuition centre, a coaching institute, or a private tutor's home. What was once a supplement to formal schooling has evolved into a widespread, unequal parallel system. New data from the Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education (2025), released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), offers a clear picture of how entrenched this "shadow education" system has become and who it leaves behind.

Nationally, 27% of students are enrolled in private coaching. But this headline figure masks stark disparities across regions and social groups that raise deeper questions about access, equity, and the role of the state.

The most striking pattern is geographic. A cluster of eastern states, including West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand, forms what might be called India's "coaching belt", where private tutoring has shifted from optional to near-essential.

West Bengal stands out: 74.6% of its students take private coaching. In Odisha, the figure is 57.1%; in Bihar, 52.5%; and in Jharkhand, 39.7%. All are well above the national average of 27%. Several northeastern states, including Tripura and Manipur, show similarly high participation rates, suggesting a broader regional pattern rather than isolated anomalies.

What is striking is that many of these states are among India's poorer regions. This is not simply a story of affluent households purchasing an advantage, but a wider phenomenon: families across the income distribution are paying for tutoring because they do not trust the formal school system to deliver adequate learning outcomes.

The contrast with other parts of the country is stark. In Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, participation is in single digits, with similarly low levels in parts of southern India. In these states, coaching remains selective. In the eastern belt, it is close to unavoidable.

Expenditure patterns reinforce this divide. Households in West Bengal spend an average of Rs 7,878 per student annually on coaching – more than three times the national average of Rs 2,409. Odisha (Rs 5,074) and Bihar (Rs 3,221) also exceed the national average by a wide margin. That Bihar and Odisha, among the poorest states in India, record such high spending underscores how deeply embedded coaching has become, even at significant financial cost.

Several factors likely explain this concentration: historically entrenched tutoring cultures, concerns about school quality, intense competition for limited higher education seats, and a self-reinforcing social norm where coaching becomes a marker of parental investment. Once most children in a neighbourhood attend tuition classes, not sending one's child risks leaving them behind, regardless of whether the coaching is actually effective.

While the survey report does not publish estimates by caste group, our analysis using unit-level data reveals a hierarchy closely aligned with India's social stratification.

Among students from general category households, 34.5% were enrolled in private coaching. The figure drops to 26.3% for OBC students and 26.4% for SC students before falling sharply to 14.4% for ST students. In effect, ST students are less than half as likely as their general-category counterparts to access private tutoring.

The expenditure gap is even more pronounced. General category students spend an average of Rs 4,129 per year on coaching, four times the Rs 1,030 recorded for ST students. SC and OBC students fall in between at Rs 1,953 and Rs 2,083, respectively.

These disparities matter because private tutoring in India tends to function less as a remedial tool for struggling students and more as a means for gaining competitive advantage in high-stakes examinations. Unequal access to coaching is therefore likely to translate into unequal outcomes in board exams, entrance tests, and access to higher education and employment.

Taken together, the geographic and caste-based patterns point to a common dynamic: access to supplementary education is stratified along the same lines as India's broader social and economic inequalities.

In states where public education systems face persistent challenges, private coaching has emerged as a *de facto* substitute that families must pay for. At the same time, disadvantaged social groups, particularly Scheduled Tribes, remain significantly less able to access this parallel system.

This creates a layered inequality. The formal system promises universal access through policies like the Right to Education Act. But alongside it operates a vast, fee-charging ecosystem that is neither universal nor equitable and that increasingly shapes educational outcomes.

India's education policy continues to focus overwhelmingly on schools: infrastructure, curricula, and enrolment. Yet for a substantial share of students, learning now extends beyond school hours into an unregulated and largely invisible market for private tutoring.

This raises difficult policy questions. Should the State attempt to regulate the coaching sector? Should access to supplementary learning be subsidised for disadvantaged groups? Or should the priority be to improve school quality to reduce dependence on private tutoring altogether? There are no easy answers. But ignoring the shadow education system is no longer tenable.

The NSO data makes one thing clear: India's education system does not end at the school gate. For millions, the real contest over learning and opportunity continues after school, in paid classrooms that remain outside the ambit of public policy. Treating schooling as synonymous with learning risks overlooking this parallel system and the inequalities it sustains.

(The writer is an assistant professor in economics at IIM Indore)

Between welfare politics and majoritarianism, the left seeks to reclaim space in a fractured landscape. But old challenges endure

SUPRIYA ROYCHOWDHURY

CPI-M candidate for South Howrah constituency, Abhijit Bandyopadhyay, campaigns for the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Howrah on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

CPI-M in West Bengal: Politics of renewal or repetition?

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), along with other left parties, is contesting close to 250 of the 294 total seats in the West Bengal Assembly elections and has projected a young, educated, and highly motivated set of new leaders. Left with not even a single seat in the state Assembly after 2021, the CPI-M perhaps hopes to regain a foothold on the political ladder, rather than return to power. Observations have bordered on the cynical -- *shunyo theke maha shunyo* (from zero to nothing). In politics, however, zero may also hold the power of renewal, although it is unclear whether the party has sufficiently introspected over its mammoth past mistakes -- lost opportunities, arrogant complacency, and an unceremonious exit after a long tenure (1977-2011). In the years since, a rudderless and vaguely defined ideological positioning was no match for a charismatic and opportunistic leadership that came to power.

Today, the average Bengali faces a sense of bankruptcy when it comes to political choice between the ruling party's alleged corruption and the main opposition's aggressive religious majoritarianism. The Trinamool Congress' (TMC's) welfare guarantees are seen, even by many beneficiaries, as propping up joblessness. The alleged disenfranchisement of lakhs of citizens through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has deepened a sense of powerlessness vis-a-vis the political system. This has created a political vacuum that the CPI-M hopes to fill.

Young men and women – the CPI-M's *sine qua non* in this election – who appear committed to clean and secular politics have made a meaningful dent in the political discourse. Remarkably, although they belong to a middle-class generation often dismissive of ideology and enamoured of Western capitalism, they have joined a political party with a leftist ideology, with no promise of immediate power.

Globally, the left is in search of viable constituencies, as its classical backbone, the assembly-line industrial workforce, has diminished significantly. The left has understandably turned to other movements for support and coalitions. In the 21st century, the Latin American Pink Tide and the Second Pink Tide indicate that left parties have emerged as a political alternative on the electoral cycle in several Latin American countries, leaning on non-class social identities and political projects -- environment, gender, sexuality, indigenous peoples, and other minorities -- to put together an alternative social base. Similarly, the European Left has sought alliances with the green and LGBTQ movements.

For the CPI-M, such alliances have proved challenging. Currently, several young, highly articulate women leaders, contesting from key constituencies, have provided an unprecedented feminine face to the CPI-M. The immediate backdrop to the party's involvement in gender issues is the 2024 rape and murder of a young doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College. During the spontaneous public protests and junior doctors' suspension of work that emerged over this crime, the CPI-M activists provided leadership from the front. The victim's mother now opting to contest the elections as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party may appear to be a victory for the BJP in terms of co-opting the issue of women's security. The larger question, of course, is, has the CPI-M built a narrative around the themes of gendered socioeconomic exclusion and violence, including the LGBTQ movement, which would provide a broad mobilisational structure and energy transcending but at the same time incorporate any one particular case? Perhaps there is a long way to go yet.

On other social identity-based alliances, notwithstanding the CPI-M's historic connection to the Muslim peasantry through its leadership of farmers' movements and tenancy reforms, there was a shift of Muslim voters to the TMC during 2006-2011, following incidents such as the Nandigram land acquisition movement. Muslim disenfranchisement through the SIR has brought a new twist to the minority question in West Bengal. The CPI-M's recent conversations with leading Islamic groups, the Indian Secular Front (ISF) and the Janata Unnayan Party (JUP) have stumbled, not only on seat-sharing disagreements but also perhaps on the deep discomfort articulated by sections of the left front over seeking political alliances with religiously defined groups. Electoral alliances are matters of shifting strategies. Muslims in West Bengal, however, have remained predominantly rural and poor, with little access to education, political representation and mobility. An effective theory of Muslim political representation would need to balance the question of social identity with the more universal, structural question of economic marginalisation.

In each of these domains, perhaps a historically class-based Marxist party falters in the process of producing theoretical narratives that could transcend class to incorporate social identity-based political constituencies. Perhaps the question also is, has the left in India squarely addressed the economic issues associated with the interests of a diverse working class across the rural and urban, farm and factory, and formal and informal sectors?

While many of West Bengal's heritage large-scale industries and industrial belts occupy a wasteland of decline and closures, today the state's industrial structure is dominated by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Although the share of workers in manufacturing is 18.8%, higher than the all-India average of 11.4%, 95% of MSMEs employ fewer than six workers, with low capital investment and labour productivity. Workers lack employment security or regulated wages. The female workforce participation rate remains lower at 33.8% against the all-India average of 37% (2022-2023); 66% of women are self-employed, pointing to the crisis of job availability.

While West Bengal's unemployment rate has been steadily falling (2.2% in 2022-2023 to the national average of 3.2%), the most widely heard statement in villages and small towns is *kaaj nei* (there is no work). This is reflected in the state's migration figures over the last two decades. West Bengal is the fourth largest sending-out state. Unskilled workers move to other states to work as informal labour in construction and in low-end services. The low unemployment figures might therefore indicate that the state now leans on other states to provide employment for its people.

It is in that context that the CPI-M has put jobs at the centre of its election promises. Dipshita Dhar, a vocal member of the young CPI-M cohort, has said, "Giving allowance to someone is fine, but it shouldn't arise from unemployment." (*The New Indian Express*, April 19). In the opinion of Samik Lahiri, a member of the party's Central Committee, the party has made job creation a central plank of their campaign. He stated that the Left Front has developed an alternative job creation policy (*DH*, March 21).

The CPI-M's manifesto promises one permanent job in every family and a 100- and 200-day job guarantee for the urban and rural poor, respectively. The manifesto mentions heavy and medium industries, software and hardware parks and so on. But what will be the path towards job creation? How will the state address the contradictions of modern technology-driven industrialisation on the one hand and job creation on the other, particularly for unskilled and semi-skilled workers? While this contradiction has beset the national economic policy paradigm since the 1990s, for the CPI-M too, the question of a new model of employment-centred industrialisation and development has remained a blind spot.

In India, around 41% of the workforce remains engaged in agriculture, despite its diminishing share in the GDP. Cities do not promise secure livelihoods. Integrating a predominantly rural and unskilled workforce into a globally competent, technology-driven economy is a formidable challenge.

It is perhaps here that expectations rest on the new, dynamic, young leadership of the CPI-M – to engage with these broader issues in the years ahead.

(The writer is a visiting professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

Inside the new PLFS

JYOTI THAKUR AND DHRUV PRATAP SINGH

India's struggle with timely labour statistics dates back decades. The National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) Employment and Unemployment Surveys operated on thick and thin rounds, with comprehensive data collected only roughly every five years — a significant inadequacy for a large, fast-changing labour market. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), launched in 2017, addressed this by providing annual estimates for rural and urban areas and quarterly estimates for urban areas, replacing the episodic framework with continuous measurement. However, PLFS itself retained limitations in frequency, geographical granularity, and international comparability. The 2025 redesign directly addresses these gaps.

The PLFS, revamped from January 2025, pursues three objectives: monthly estimates of key labour indicators — worker population ratio (WPR), labour force participation rate (LFPR), and unemployment rate — at the all-India level for both rural and urban areas; extended quarterly coverage to rural areas for the first time, enabling combined national estimates; and continued annual estimates in both usual and current weekly status on a calendar year basis.

Sampling methodology has been substantially strengthened. The first stage units (FSUs) surveyed have increased from 12,800 to 22,594, while households per FSU have risen from eight to twelve, yielding a total sample of approximately 270,472 households — a 2.65 times increase. Critically, the district now replaces the NSS region as the basic stratum, making PLFS estimates representative at the district level and significantly improving the granularity for sub-state labour market analysis.

The rotational panel design has been restructured significantly. Previously, urban households were visited once per quarter with no revisit provision for rural households. Under the new design, all selected households are visited four times across four consecutive months, ensuring 75% matching between consecutive months and 50% between successive quarters. The selection method has shifted from PPS with replacement to simple random sampling, with sub-stratification introduced in urban areas.

Beyond sampling, several additional items have been incorporated into the first visit schedule, including five education-related questions on class completed and years of schooling; a question on the nature of the vocational training certifying body; two questions on land possessed and leased out; and four questions on household income from rent, interest, pension, and remittances. These additions make the new PLFS schedule considerably richer — effectively combining labour force measurement with household income, asset, and education profiling in a single instrument.

Recognising that the July-June framework made India's labour statistics difficult to compare with international databases — all of which operate on calendar year cycles — and to provide a meaningful transition between the old and new series, MoSPI has released a back series of PLFS estimates on a calendar year basis. The back series begins in 2021 and not earlier for two reasons. First, 2020 was severely disrupted by Covid-19, making a clean, fully canvassed calendar year impossible. Second, the PLFS schedule was expanded around this period to incorporate a consumption block — household usual monthly consumer expenditure collected through five questions mirroring recent NSS rounds — making pre-2021 unit-level data structurally incompatible with later years.

A critical distinction must be noted. The calendar year back series through 2024 was constructed using the old sample design re-cut to a calendar year window; January 2025 marks the first data collected entirely under the new design. When multiple design elements change simultaneously — sample size, stratification, selection method, panel structure, and schedule content — differences in estimates may reflect genuine labour market shifts, seasonal effects, or design effects, making clean separation difficult. MoSPI itself has cautioned that post-January 2025 results cannot be straightforwardly compared with earlier publications.

India now has better labour market data than it has ever had. The revamp of PLFS comes at a particularly consequential moment — the four new labour codes covering wages, industrial relations, social security, and occupational safety have been brought into force in November 2025, reshaping hiring practices, formalisation incentives, and social protection coverage across the economy. Whether these reforms are delivering — whether formalisation is increasing, whether wage floors are binding, whether social security coverage is expanding — requires high-frequency, district-level data. India's five trillion-dollar ambition and the Viksit Bharat vision both rest on assumptions about who is working, in what conditions, and with what protection. For too long, the data arrived too late and at too aggregated a level to be of real policy use. That constraint has now been lifted. The question is whether policymakers and researchers will use what they now have with the rigour the moment demands.

(Jyoti is an associate fellow, and Dhruv is a research analyst at NCAER, New Delhi)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Hotels agree to cut prices

Bangalore, April 27
Prices of food articles in hotels, restaurants and eating houses are noticeably reduced, according to an agreement reached between the State Government and the City hotel owners here today. The new rates will come into force from May 5, Mr. K. Sriramulu, Minister of State for Labour, told pressmen. Mr. Sriramulu, in charge of the implementation of the 20-point programme in the City, held discussions in this connection with the City hotel owners who agreed to the new rates.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Lanka fighting continues, army death toll touches 110

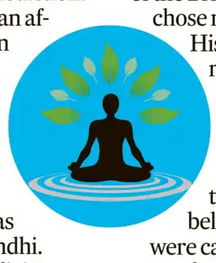
Colombo, April 27 (PTI & UNI)
Fierce fighting continued to rage for the third consecutive day in Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka, as the death toll among government troops touched 110 and rebels suffered heavy casualties but admitted only 30 fatalities. The military situation report said one officer and 39 soldiers were killed on Thursday amidst efforts by the security forces to redraw the forward defence lines ahead of Eluthumadduval, Nagar Kovil, and Muhamalai areas.

OASIS | JAYANTHI CHANDRASEKARAN

Benediction, an ultimate act of empathy

In its traditional sense, a benediction gently draws a curtain on worship. In Hindu gatherings, elders conclude ceremonies with *ashirvada*, placing their palms on bowed heads, and invoking divine grace. In Christian liturgy, a priest raises his hands to bless at the end of a service, offering words of peace and hope as the congregation departs. In both, a benediction is more than a ritual—it is shared goodwill, a bridge between the sacred and the everyday.

Yet, benediction need not remain confined within religious walls. Nature often whispers its own blessings—the hush of dawn, the amber glow of sunset, the tender rhythm of falling rain. These moments feel like silent assurances that the world is held together by a gentle, unseen care. Even life itself can be seen as a benediction: every breath, every sunrise, an affirmation of existence. When we begin to notice this, gratitude deepens, and we are moved to extend kindness to others, becoming both receivers and givers of grace.



Few embodied this spirit as profoundly as Mahatma Gandhi. His life was, in many ways, a living benediction—an outward expression of empathy rooted in action. Confronted with the suffering of Indians and native Zulus in South Africa or the 350 million Indians living under the iron fist of the British government in India, he chose not anger, but understanding. His philosophy of *satyagraha*—non-violent resistance—was not merely a political strategy, but an act of deep compassion. Instead of seeking to defeat his opponents, he sought to awaken their conscience, believing that even adversaries were capable of transformation. His struggle was thus not against people, but against injustice itself.

The word benediction comes from the Latin *bene dicere*, meaning "to speak well of" or "to bless", combining *bene* (well) and *dicere* (to say). At its heart lies a simple yet profound act: wishing goodness for another. Whether it is "May you find peace," "Travel safely," or even a quiet "I believe in you," such words carry a subtle strength. They do not impose control or expectation; instead, they honour the other's journey with sincerity.

In a world often shaped by haste and harshness, a benediction becomes an oasis. It is empathy made audible—a reminder that to bless another is to momentarily set aside oneself and affirm the recipient's value and potential.

Kejriwal boycotts judge who refused to recuse in Delhi excise case

Says he will not appear before court in person or through lawyer

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal has written to Delhi High Court Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, saying he will not appear in the excise case personally or through a lawyer before her after she refused to recuse from hearing.

In his letter to Justice Sharma, he said he has not written in anger nor in disrespect nor in any spirit of personal confrontation with her but on the contrary, written in pain, with humility and with an unabiding faith in the role of the judiciary.

Kejriwal has sought her recusal from hearing an appeal filed by the CBI against his discharge in the excise policy case by a special court in February.

Arvind Kejriwal

"Taking inspiration from the Gandhian principle of Satyagraha and after giving the authority an opportunity to consider and correct what I perceived to be a grave miscarriage of justice, I have decided that I shall not participate in the further proceedings in this matter, either in person or through counsel," he said in the four-page letter.

"I do not take this step lightly. I am fully conscious that by doing so, I may prejudice my own legal interests. I understand I may lose the opportunity to advance submissions before this court and that adverse consequences leave me no other dignified course. I am prepared to bear those consequences...I cannot make peace with my soul by participating in proceedings marked, in my respectful view, by such grave an appearance of conflict as all were well," he said.

Kejriwal said people can ask him if he is unsatisfied with her order, then why doesn't he approach the Supreme Court and added, "I am preparing for that."

He had found fault with her close association with RSS' legal front Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad (ABAP) and that her children "are professionally engaged on multiple advocates' panels" of the union government, which is the opposite party in his case.

He said "justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done", which is among the "most sacred assurances" that a court gives to a citizen in a democracy, and that it cannot be dishonoured by asking the citizen to ignore what "anyone can plainly see" in a case like this.

He said his plea seeking her recusal was interpreted as a personal attack, though it is his belief that it is now "impossible to receive an impartial hearing" in her court.

Denied withdrawal, Odisha man brings sister's skeleton to bank

KEONJHAR, PTI: A tribal man in Odisha's Keonjhar district on Monday brought the skeleton of his dead sister to a bank to withdraw money deposited in her name, police said.

The incident occurred at Maliposi branch of Odisha Grameen Bank located at Patana block of Keonjhar district. The man was identified as Jeetu Munda (50) of Dianali village. He was seeking to withdraw Rs 20,000 from the bank account of his elder sister, Kalra Munda (56), who died on January 26, 2026.

"I have run several times to the bank, and the people there told me to bring the account holder to withdraw money deposited in her name. Though I told them that she had died, they did not listen to me and insisted on bringing her to the bank. Therefore, out of frustration, I dug the grave and brought out her skeleton as proof of her death," Jeetu Munda said.

Patana Police Station Inspector in charge (IIC) Kiran Prasad Sahu, who reached the bank after getting information, said, "Jeetu is an illiterate tribal man. He does not know what the legal heir or nominee is. The bank officials have failed to make him understand the procedure to withdraw money from the dead person's account."

However, after the incident, the police assured Jeetu that they would facilitate the withdrawal of money.

IUML hands over houses in Wayanad as govt project stalls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

At a time when the houses provided by the Kerala government to Wayanad landslide victims are mired in a row over quality, and construction of the houses promised by the Congress is yet to begin, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) held the housewarming of 51 newly built homes on Monday.

The three-bedroom houses, each with a total area of 1,060 sq ft on eight cents of land, had already been handed over to beneficiaries on February 28. Along with adequate furniture and household materials, the residents will now start living in their new homes.

The project is coming up on 11 acres of land along the Muttil-Peppadi road in Wayanad, with a total of 105 houses planned. Construction of the remaining units is in progress, each estimated to cost Rs 26 lakh. Common facilities such as a community hall and park are also being developed.

Separately, the Kerala government is setting up a township for landslide-affected families. Of the 410 houses planned, 178 were handed over on March 1. However, since basic works are still pending, the houses have not yet been occupied.

Cracks were spotted in some of the houses, raising concerns over construction quality. However, Revenue Minister K Rajan personally inspected the homes and ruled out any quality issues.

Though the Congress laid the foundation stone for 50 houses in a township for landslide survivors, work has yet to begin. The ruling CPM accused the Congress of fund misappropriation, while the Congress maintained that delays in government approvals were holding up the project.

In one of Kerala's deadliest natural calamities, more than 250 people were killed in the landslides that struck the Mundakkai-Chooralmala regions of Wayanad on July 30, 2024.

Marine fossils dating back to 8,000-12,000 years found in TN's Thoothukudi

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Marine fossils in Thoothukudi, which were exposed by torrential rains, have been dated back to the Holocene Period (between 8,000 and 12,000 years ago), according to a report by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

The marine fossils, which were discovered at Panaiyur in Kulathur South panchayat in the district, were surveyed by a team of scientists from ZSI in January this year.

"The assessment confirms a newly discovered Fossil Bed dating back to the Holocene period (8,000–12,000 years), which significantly enriches the Quaternary fossil record of India. This discovery is important because it helps us better understand India's ancient wildlife, environment and climate," Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said.

The report said the Panaiyur fossil assemblage was assigned the tentative age based on its stratigraphic position, sedimentological context, degree of fossilisation and comparison with dated quaternary deposits from the region.

"The fossil bed represents deposits formed during the Holocene marine transgression, when rising sea levels inundated previously exposed coastal plains and created extensive shallow marine environments suitable for sediment deposition and fossil accumulation," the report added.

The report also said the assemblage indicated a shallow-marine to estuarine setting with mixed sandy-muddy substrates, moderate water circulation, marine to brackish salinity and warm tropical temperatures.

The scientists collected 104 fossil specimens belonging to four taxonomic groups from the Phylum Mollusca.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, THAT DRIVEWAY ISN'T GOING TO SHOVEL ITSELF, YOU KNOW
ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN, EVENTUALLY...IT'S GONNA MELT
THAT DRIVEWAY ISN'T GOING TO SHOVEL ITSELF, HONEY
I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME

Hagar The Horrible

BROTHER OLAF, WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?
SPREADING LOVE AND FORGIVENESS!
REALLY? I WOULD HAVE GUESSED HEARING ALL THOSE CONFESSIONS!

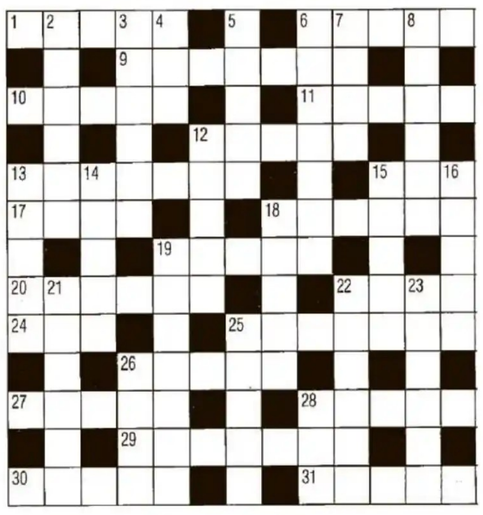
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

SLAM
THAT STUPID CHARLIE BROWN! HE HAD THE NERVE TO SAY THAT I'M NOT PERFECT!
SO I SUPPOSE YOU HIT HIM, HUH?
RATS! I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12404



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Finish first at half pace ñ but in pain? (5)
6 Cost of cheap scent, possibly? (5)
9 Help for the worker given the push (4-3)
10 A nominal figure (5)
11 Style of diving, as possibly holding a youngster (5)
12 Opening out within the borders of Meath (5)
13 That American agenda your computer will understand (7)
15 A drink on the house, perhaps (3)
17 Present mother really needs (4)
18 A novelly murderous organisation (6)
19 Underground supporters (5)
20 Tradesman distributing tar oil (6)
22 Can you not go quite so far as to sit on it? (4)
24 Work on central heating, as you choose (3)
25 Beaten at cards (7)
26 Where to speak out with no cold voice (5)
27 Look around, boy! (5)
28 It has something feminine in, one thinks (5)
29 It may be on time at central Greenwich, say (7)
30 In the Bible, he takes Aaron's staff (5)
31 Annual fruit (5)

DOWN
2 You do so as a matter of policy (6)
3 The rush for money (6)
4 An organ for music (3)
5 In a manner of speaking, I had one on order (5)
6 The ways of revenue officials (7)
7 An artist might do so in a quiet churchyard (4)
8 They may be on time at the railway station (6)
12 John or Barbara? (5)
13 Many pictures are so graphic! (5)
14 A heavenly path or piece (5)
15 Group receiving a poor rise at the end of August (5)
16 A top man in the lead (5)
18 Conservative account? Not entirely (5)
19 Went round to put a name on the list (7)
21 Old-time dancer seemingly rough on his partner (6)
22 Small girl's name for an ancient city (6)
23 Feeling no end upset and catty (6)
25 Of the canine kind? (5)
26 Wrestling for money and love (4)
28 Practically anyone will see it as an odd rhyme (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Inexpensive (5)
6 Dark colour (5)
9 Push-bike (7)
10 Sleep noisily (5)
11 Prose composition (5)
12 Indications (5)
13 Long-lasting (7)
15 Lair (3)
17 Dry (4)
18 Term of office (6)
19 Guide (5)
20 Inimitable (6)
22 Fix (4)
24 Angry, informally (3)
25 Formal discussions (7)
26 Group of twenty (5)
27 Holy book (5)
28 Ski-slope (5)
29 Headache tablet (7)
30 Oozes (5)
31 Belief (5)

DOWN
2 Personal integrity (6)
3 Overseas (6)
4 Baked food (3)
5 Eagle's nest (5)
6 Liquidiser (7)
7 Minus (4)
8 Bomb hole (6)
12 Censure, informally (5)
13 Fact (5)
14 Stiff (5)
15 Continental quilt (5)
16 Requires (5)
18 Native American tent (5)
19 Opposite of failure (7)
21 Indigenous (6)
22 Of the sea (6)
23 Snuggle (6)
25 Draw off liquid from (5)
26 Smack (4)
28 Mine (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12403

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Stage 8, Coach 10, R-ally 11, O-ft. 12, Atlas 13, E-stonia 15, Verbs 18, Pin 19, Relish 21, Nuptial 22, Bias 23, Shem 24, Sell-out 26, Scar-ce 29, Wag 31, Solar 32, Car-goes 34, Tally 35, End 36, S-le-ep. 37, Users 38, Deign.
DOWN: 1, Boo-St 2, Oct.-opus 4, Ta-ta 5, Grave-L 6, Easel 7, Clubs 9, Aft 12, Aintree 14, Nip 16, Right 17, Shame 19, Railway 20, A-by-ss 21, Nat-Al 23, Sug-g-est 24, Scrape 25, Oar 27, Co-U-ld 28, R-ate-d. 30, Pedro 32, C-log 33, One.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Get at 8, Jewel 10, Pride 11, Ban 12, Hippo 13, Gastric 15, Elbow 18, Rod 19, Palate 21, Lateral 22, Cool 23, Bled 24, Put away 26, Abacus 29, Say 31, Pilot 32, Coronet 34, Atoll 35, Nor 36, Norse 37, Fewer 38, Tribe.
DOWN: 1, Kebab 2, Central 4, Epic 5, Appeal 6, Troll 7, Idiot 9, Was 12, Hideous 14, Rot 16, Badly 17, Weeds 19, Parasol 20, Scrap 21, Loyal 23, Bayonet 24, Putter 25, War 27, Bison 28, Coast 30, Beret 32, Club 33, Now.

◆SU-DO-KU-6891◆

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	6				9	1		
	4			2	1		3	
3	8							
7								3
							4	9
	5		9	3			8	
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medium

SOLUTION TO 6890

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7	9	3	5	1	4	8	6	2
1	6	8	7	3	2	5	4	9
3	4	5	8	7	1	9	2	6
9	2	7	4	6	3	1	5	8
8	1	6	9	2	5	7	3	4
6	8	9	2	5	7	4	1	3
4	7	1	3	9	6	2	8	5
5	3	2	1	4	8	6	9	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1	A1	A1	E1	W4	D2	S1	RACK 1
N1	T1	A1	C3	R1	E1	S1	Double Word Score — RACK 2
L1	G2	T1	A1	D2	E1	O1	RACK 3
I1	E1	L1	E1	D2	V4	I1	3rd Letter Triple — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YEATERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	K5	E1	L1	L1	Y4		RACK 1 =	23
B3	I1	C3	E1	P3	S1		RACK 2 =	36
C3	I1	V4	I1	E1	S1		RACK 3 =	11
B3	I1	T1	T1	E1	N1		RACK 4 =	16
M3	I1	S1	T1	I1	N1	G2	RACK 5 =	60

PAR SCORE 95-105 — JUDD'S TOTAL 146

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WOHNS
TGNAR
APHSIM
DPDDEA

Surf and turf? What kind of airline serves this?
Thank you. We want all of our passengers to have a first-class experience.
So, champagne is included? This flight is amazing!
10/16
THE NEW AIRLINE OFFERING FIRST-CLASS SERVICE FOR EVERY PASSENGER HAD ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANNOY KNACK ASTHMA COWARD
Answer: Going fishing made it possible for the TV reporter to become — AN ANCHORMAN

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HITORI-3345

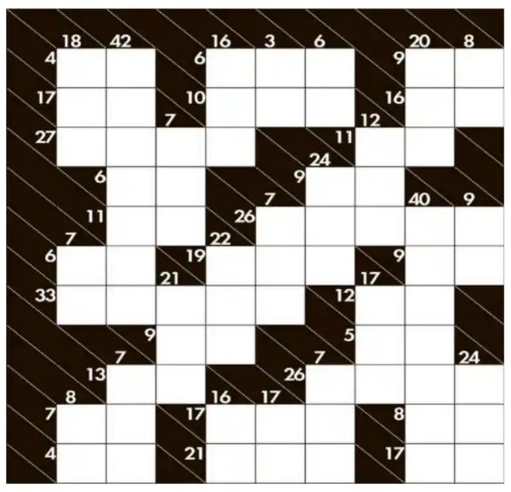
4	3	7	1	2	1	4	4
3	5	1	7	6	8	2	6
8	1	2	3	7	4	6	5
6	2	7	5	4	2	8	4
4	1	8	1	6	2	5	1
2	5	3	8	1	1	1	2
1	8	4	5	5	6	7	5
1	7	5	2	3	5	6	8

SOLUTION TO 3344

■	8	2	■	4	7	5	■
7	4	■	1	■	8	3	2
■	7	1	2	3	5	6	■
5	6	3	■	7	■	4	8
■	3	■	8	5	1	2	7
2	5	8	7	■	3	■	6
■	1	■	5	6	2	7	■
3	2	6	■	8	■	1	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3345



SOLUTION TO 3344

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3899

■	2							■
	■				6	1	2	
		■				■		3
		6	■		3	5		
				■	7			6
	3		■			9		
6		5	4			■		
9	■				5		■	1
1		2				4	9	■

SOLUTION TO 3898

7	8	4	9	1	6	2	3	5
1	2	3	7	8	5	4	6	9
6	5	9	3	4	2	1	8	7
3	1	5	4	6	7	8	9	2
2	4	8	5	3	9	7	1	6
9	6	7	8	2	1	5	4	3
5	3	2	1	9	8	6	7	4
8	9	6	2	7	4	3	5	1
4	7	1	6	5	3	9	2	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

SC refuses rape plea of woman who lived in with partner for 15 years

Says petitioner may pursue other remedies, including maintenance for the child

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday asked how a charge of rape based on a false promise of marriage could arise from a long-term live-in relationship where the couple even had a child.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan asked the petitioner's counsel about the existence of the essential ingredients of the offence, and questioned the legal consequences of the relationship's breakdown.

"Why did she go and live with him before marriage? See, now if we ask these questions, they say we are victim-shaming," said the bench while hearing a case alleging rape on the false pretext of marriage.

Having noted the parties had lived together for about 15 years and had a child, the bench asked, "Once he (the accused) walks out, does it become a criminal offence?"

The woman claimed that the man lured her at a young age, concealing the fact that he was already married.

It was alleged that the man promised to marry her and entered into a relationship with her.

The bench further asked, "Why did she go live with him and have a child? Now she is saying sexual assault."

JUSTICE NAGARATHNA
Supreme Court

"Where is the question of offence when there is a consensual relationship? They were living together and she also had a child from him and then there is no marriage and now, she says sexual assault? For 15 years they lived together.

It was claimed that the petitioner was unaware that the accused was already married, and later discovered he had relationships with other women.

The petitioner's counsel contended that the allegation was that he sexually assaulted her and made a false promise of marriage.

The counsel also contended that the accused met the petitioner when the latter was merely 18 years old.

The bench also referred to the long relationship between the two, and then questioned the applicability of criminal charges.

It observed: "So, there was a consensual relationship. They were living together."

It added: "She had a child, and then she filed a complaint of sexual assault and all that... Where is the offence?"

Other claims

The petitioner's counsel claimed that the accused had exploited other women in a similar manner.

"We are not concerned about what he is doing to other women. We are concerned about this petitioner," the bench said. "15 years? At this point of time, she has filed a complaint."

The bench told the counsel, "We can only sympathise with the petitioner. She went with him, had a child, and lived with him for 15 years."

The court said that the petitioner might pursue other remedies, including maintenance for the child.

The bench stressed that invoking criminal law required a clear establishment of an offence, and after hearing submissions, it referred the dispute to mediation.

The petitioner had approached the Supreme Court against the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to quash her FIR against her former live-in partner.

BJP's Dinesh Trivedi named India's next envoy to Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former Union minister Dinesh Trivedi was appointed India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh on Monday amid efforts by the two countries to repair frayed bilateral ties.

Dinesh Trivedi

He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a brief statement.

New Delhi's decision to send a seasoned politician to Dhaka comes at a time when both sides are looking to rebuild relations that came under severe strain during the tenure of Bangladesh's interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus.

A veteran politician from West Bengal, 75-year-old Trivedi held key portfolios as Railway Minister and Minister of State for Health during the UPA government.

Having represented the state in the Rajya Sabha and as the Lok Sabha MP for Barrackpore, he resigned from the Trinamool Congress in February 2021 and subsequently joined the BJP.

BJP minister gets 1-month jail for pouring mud on NHAI staff

MUMBAI, DHNS: Maharashtra's Fisheries and Ports Minister Nitesh Rane has been sentenced to a jail term of one month and a Rs 1 lakh fine for pouring mud on a National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) engineer in 2019.

Nitesh Rane

The local court in the Sindhudurg district found the Kankavli MLA guilty of assaulting a public servant and preventing him from performing his official duties. Although 29 other accused in the case were acquitted, the court convicted Rane. However, the court suspended the sentence by one month to enable him to approach higher courts.

"Even though Nitesh Rane's intention was to raise his voice against the poor quality of work and the inconvenience faced by the people, he was not supposed to humiliate or insult a public servant in public," said Additional Sessions Judge V S Deshmukh.

In a post on X, Nitesh Rane said "Satyamev Jayate" and posted a video of the defence lawyer's statement.

It may be recalled that Rane, on July 4, 2019, summoned engineer Prakash Shedekar to inspect the four-laning work on the Mumbai-Goa Highway.

Five venomous snakes found inside house in Kozhikode

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Rameshan and his family in Kozhikode had a narrow escape from snakebite on Sunday.

Five snakes of the Common krait species, which is highly venomous, were found in his house at Kuttiyadi. One snake was underneath the bed in which his two children were sleeping and another was spotted in the toilet. This prompted a frenzied search when three more snakes were found in the house.

Rameshan told reporters that his family members, especially the two children, were extremely lucky. He was also surprised that the snakes entered the house. Later, forest department officials searched the house and the premises. But no more snakes were found.

As temperatures soar in the state, these reptiles are restlessly slithering out of their safe habitats, leading to an increase in human-snake conflict.

As many as seven persons, including two children, died in Kerala following snakebites in one week.

Indian crew on tanker safe as Iran fires shots

Incident near Oman coast raises fresh safety concerns

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Togo-flagged chemical tanker, MT Chiron-7, carrying 17 Indian crew members, was intercepted and fired upon with warning shots by the Iranian Coast Guard near the coast of Oman on April 25.

The incident occurred southeast of the Strait of Hormuz, close to Oman's Shinas Port, as the vessel was attempting to cross the area along with other ships.

According to the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Iranian Coast Guard intercepted the tanker and fired warning shots. All 17 Indian crew members are reported to be safe.

"The ministry is in continuous contact with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions abroad, and maritime stakeholders. We remain fully committed to the safety of Indian seafarers and the smooth continuation of maritime operations," Mandeep Singh Randhawa, Director at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, told media persons.

The episode has raised fresh concerns over maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical choke point where both Iran and the United States are currently enforcing their respective restrictions and blockades.

Randhawa added that no untoward incidents involving Indian nationals working in the region have been reported in the past 24 hours. Since the activation of the shipping control room, authorities have handled over 7,780 calls and around 16,000 emails. More than 2,000 Indians have been safely evacuated from various parts of the Gulf so far. All Indian ports are functioning normally with no disruptions reported.

The latest incident comes days after Iranian forces fired upon three foreign-flagged vessels last week, two of which had a total of 22 Indian seafarers on board.

On April 18, two India-flagged vessels were also reportedly fired upon by the Iranian navy. India had strongly protested the incidents and conveyed its "deep concern" to Iranian authorities through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, urging them to ensure the safety of mariners and uphold freedom of navigation in international waters.

HORMUZ TENSIONS

- Togo-flagged MT Chiron-7 intercepted near Oman coast
- Iranian Coast Guard fires warning shots
- Incident occurred southeast of Strait of Hormuz
- Last week, Iranian forces fired on three foreign vessels

Centre refutes fuel-shortage reports, appeals against panic-buying

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid reports of panic-buying of petrol and diesel in several parts of the country, the Central government on Monday assured that fuel stocks were adequate to meet demand, and appealed to the public not to believe rumours.

"We have noticed an exceptional surge in demand in certain areas, with diesel sales rising by 30-33%. This sudden spike has caused temporary shortages at some retail outlets. Oil companies are actively addressing the issue. There is no shortage of fuel availability. We have sufficient stocks," Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma told reporters.

In Andhra Pradesh, rumours of an imminent price hike triggered widespread panic buying, leading to long queues and more than 400 petrol pumps running dry on Sunday.

People rush to pay and collect LPG cylinders from a delivery truck carrying cylinders amid the ongoing supply crisis, at the McLeodganj Chowk, in Dharamshala. PTI

The government urged citizens to avoid panic-buying of petrol, diesel, and LPG, stating that all efforts were being made to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

Rumours about a possible price hike after the final phase of voting in West Bengal on April 29 may have triggered the panic-buying.

Despite a surge in international oil prices, retail petrol and diesel rates in India have remained unchanged, with state-owned oil companies absorbing the impact.

Analysts, however, are asking how long the companies could hold prices without government support.

Retail fuel prices at public sector outlets remain unchanged, and adequate stocks are available across the country despite isolated incidents of panic buying driven by unfounded rumours.

Sharma said India has maintained adequate supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas despite ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Refineries are operating at high capacity with sufficient crude inventories, ensuring stable supplies of petrol and diesel.

To shield consumers from rising global oil prices linked to the Middle East crisis, the government has cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre while raising export levies on diesel and aviation turbine fuel.

Discussing Chabahar Port waiver with Iran and US: Govt

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India on Monday said the issue of the expired US sanctions waiver for the Chabahar Port project is under active discussion with both Iran and the United States, even as the ongoing regional conflict complicates matters.

"The issue regarding Chabahar is under discussion with both Iran and the US. The current conflict is also a complicating factor. We will keep you posted as the situation evolves," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The Chabahar Port project holds strategic importance for India as it provides vital connectivity to Afghanistan, while also strengthening economic linkages with Central Asian countries.

The US had initially revoked the sanctions exception in September 2025. Later, it extended the conditional waiver until April 26, 2026.

India ramps up fertiliser imports for Kharif despite rising costs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central government on Monday said India plans to import 64 lakh tonnes of urea and 19 lakh tonnes of other fertilisers for the Kharif season, despite the West Asia crisis nearly doubling global prices and raising the import bill.

"There is a strong supply situation for the Kharif season with no shortages reported so far," Department of Fertilisers Additional Secretary Aparna S Sharma told reporters here.

Despite the global price surge due to the West Asia conflict, retail prices of urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP) in India would remain unchanged, she said.

"Most imports come through the Strait of Hormuz, and we are confident of timely supplies," she added.

The fertiliser ministry also admitted that domestic production dipped in March due to force majeure on gas deliveries, pulling plant utilisation down to 60-65%. As for the domestic retail prices, she said urea continued to be sold at Rs 266.50 per 45-kg bag and DAP at Rs 1,350 per 50-kg bag.

A farmer sprinkles fertiliser over crops on the outskirts of Amritsar. The fertiliser output had taken a hit in March due to force majeure on gas deliveries, bringing plant utilisation down to 60-65%. AFP

"Now we have taken measures to import gas even at a higher cost. Availability of gas for urea units, which earlier was 60-65%, is now 97%. So, our urea production has been very good after that," said Sharma.

Post-crisis domestic urea production has reached 35.4 lakh tonne. The government has also floated a global tender for the import of 19 lakh tonnes of non-urea fertilisers, comprising 12 lakh tonnes of DAP, 4 lakh tonnes of triple superphosphate (TSP), and 3 lakh tonnes of ammonium sulphate to ensure adequate supplies during the peak Kharif season.

A call for further import of urea and non-urea fertilisers will be made after assessing domestic production and demand.

BRICS meet differences over ongoing conflict in West Asia: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India recently chaired a meeting of BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys on the Middle East and North Africa (BRICS MENA) in New Delhi, with the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday saying that a consensus could not be reached as there were differences on account of the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

At an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked what India's position is on the Palestine issue, given some reports claiming that New Delhi apparently 'diluted' its long-standing position on Palestine during the BRICS meeting held last week, which may have led to a lack of consensus.

"Let me clarify the issue for you... We have seen some speculative and inaccurate reporting on the recent BRICS officials' meeting," Jaiswal told reporters.

The MEA spokesperson urged reporters to refer to the joint statement released on the occasion of the India Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting earlier this year.

"This meeting happened in Delhi. This outcome was endorsed by all present, including Palestine," the MEA spokesperson added.

Mumbai: 4 of a family die after eating biryani, watermelon

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a shocking incident, four members of a family died of suspected food poisoning in Mumbai's densely populated Pydhonie area after hosting a party for relatives and friends. However, the exact cause of death remains a mystery.

According to initial reports, the family had consumed biryani and watermelon on Saturday night. A total of nine persons — including the deceased — had dinner together around 10.30 pm on Saturday. Then, they ate watermelon around 1-1.30 am on Sunday.

Around 6 am, the four started exhibiting symptoms of food poisoning — including loose motions and vomiting.

The family doctor was called; He administered primary treatment and advised hospitalisation.

They were referred to the M H Saboo Siddique Maternity & General Hospital, from where they were shifted to the Sir J J Hospital in Byculla.

They passed away during the course of treatment. An Accidental Death Report (ADR) case has been registered at J J Marg Police Station in this regard. The cops confirmed the sequence of events.

The post-mortem examinations have been conducted, but the final cause of death will be confirmed only after histopathological reports are received. The police, meanwhile, have seized food samples and begun an investigation.

"When we reached there, they were drowsy," said Dr Zaid Qureshi, who stays in the same building.

"The watermelon was purchased from the Null Bazaar area," he said, adding that there had been instances of adulteration and use of toxins in fruits.

FOOD-LINKED

- A total of nine persons, had dinner together around 10.30 pm. Around 6 am, the four started exhibiting symptoms of food poisoning
- The post-mortem examinations have been conducted, but the final cause of death will be confirmed only after histopathological reports
- The police, meanwhile, have seized food samples and began probe

Gujarat High Court objects to student's dress, stresses court decorum

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat High Court on Monday objected to a girl student's attire, remarking that the "dignity and decorum of the court" must be maintained by all.

A heated exchange ensued between the judge and the senior lawyer representing the petitioner, a Master's student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, who was challenging the institute's disciplinary action against her before the court.

As the hearing began, Justice Nirjar Desai objected to the student's attire — an open shirt over a T-shirt. On the high court's YouTube channel, senior advocate Percy Kavina, appearing for the student, was heard saying, "I am respectfully submitting to your lordship that the attire of the petitioner must not and cannot affect the court's discretion."

Justice Desai responded, "Certainly not. But at the same time, when a matter is in court in respect of the discipline of an organisation, and you are challenging action based on the indiscipline of a student, then it matters."

To this, Kavina replied, "... but I think your lordship must condone what your lordship considers a problematic attire."

"Not problematic, but everyone has a choice and can exercise it — yet it depends on the place one is visiting, and arrogance must not reflect in actions or words," Justice Desai remarked.

The judge further said he did not want to "spoil" the student's career, but at the same time, a student must know what is wrong and what is impermissible.

COURTROOM CLASH

- Heated exchange between Justice and lawyer of student petitioner
- Justice says court is temple of justice, every place has rules
- Court was hearing student's petition challenging disciplinary proceedings at IIT-G
- Court insists students must follow institute discipline

The student is currently facing multiple disciplinary proceedings initiated by IIT-G. In one instance, she was penalised for rude behaviour after requesting the balance of her tour allowance for fieldwork.

The institute's inquiry found her guilty and directed her to either vacate the hostel or perform community service. She chose the latter.

In another case, she was expelled from her hostel after being found "living in the boys' hostel". In her defence, she stated that she had gone there only to collect materials and had access to the room key, as the student to whom the room was allotted was abroad at the time.

She said she was expelled from the hostel and has since been living off-campus. Kavina told the court that she was being "punished" for filing complaints rather than for refusing to be "servile".

The court, however, said that students must adhere to the discipline prescribed by their institutes, irrespective of personal opinions.

The matter was listed for further hearing on April 29.

LOST & FOUND

Telangana tops charts with recovery of 1.24L stolen phones

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has recovered over 1.24 lakh stolen mobile phones since the launch of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal in 2023, emerging as the best-performing state in the country on that front.

The CEIR portal, developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to combat mobile theft and curb the use of counterfeit devices, was piloted in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi, and the northeastern states on September 5, 2022. Telangana joined it on April 19, 2023. Despite the delayed start, the state surpassed all others on the CEIR dashboard as of April 26 this year.

CID Additional Director General Charu Sinha said the system is now fully operational across all 780 police stations in the state. Telangana CID serves as the nodal agency for CEIR implementation within the state.

Several key measures have driven Telangana's success, said Sinha. A dedicated core team was constituted at the state level to address technical issues and ensure round-the-clock monitoring.

"A standardised workflow was established — from the initial blocking request to tracing and returning devices to their rightful owners. At the police-station level, traceability reports are categorised into three tiers: easy, moderately difficult and very difficult to recover, enabling prioritised action. In cases where mobile phones were found in use outside Telangana, Station House Officers issued notices under Section 91 of the CrPC. Regular feedback from district units was also routed to the DoT, contributing to iterative improvements in the portal's software," said Sinha.

Shooter charged in plot to assassinate Trump

Allen also divulged plans to kill Trump admin officials

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The man accused of shooting a US Secret Service agent while attempting to breach security at a Washington dinner attended by President Donald Trump has been charged with attempting to assassinate the president, a judge said in court on Monday.

Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, also faces firearms charges in a three-count complaint.

Allen wore a blue prison jumpsuit at his first appearance in Washington federal court, two days after authorities said they foiled an attack at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, an annual black-tie gathering of journalists and politicians. "He attempted to assassinate the president of the United States, Donald J Trump," prosecutor Jocelyn Ballantine said in court.

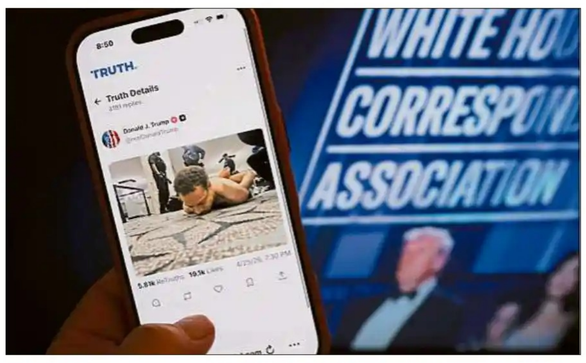
Allen has not yet responded to the allegations. Seated at the defence table flanked by US Marshals, he said he would answer all questions truthfully and that he held a master's degree in computer science.

US Magistrate Judge Matthew Sharbaugh ordered Allen detained while the case proceeds. Another hearing on his continued detention is scheduled for Thursday.

Allen allegedly left a manifesto with family members referring to himself as the "Friendly Federal Assassin" and outlining plans to target senior Trump administration officials who were present in the hotel ballroom. Prosecutors said his targets likely included Trump.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt described the Saturday night attack as the third major assassination attempt against Trump, following two attempts on his life in 2024. She compared the rhetoric in the manifesto to criticism of Trump by his political opponents. "Much of the manifesto of the would-be assassin is indistinguishable from the words that we hear daily from so many," Leavitt said. "The entire Democrat Party has made their pitch to voters across the country that Donald Trump poses an existential threat to democracy, that he is a fascist."

Prominent elected Democrats have condemned the shooting. Allen booked a room at the Washington Hilton hotel, where the dinner took place, and travelled from California to Washington by train, officials said.



An illustration photo shows a phone with a Truth Social post by US President Donald Trump displaying an image of the suspect after being apprehended on April 25. AFP FILE

Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi during their meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on Monday. REUTERS

Russia with Iran, says Putin

Russian leader says ready to help bring peace to West Asia

MOSCOW, PTI

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday met Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hailed the Iranian people for fighting bravely for their sovereignty and said Moscow is ready to do its best to help bring peace to West Asia as soon as possible.

Araghchi, who held talks with leaders in Oman and Pakistan before arriving in Russia, met Putin in St Petersburg and thanked him for supporting Iran, TASS news agency reported.

"Russia is ready to do everything in its power to ensure that peace in West Asia is achieved as soon as possible," Putin said during his meeting with Araghchi, which was also attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Revealing that he received a message from Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei last week, Putin asked Araghchi to convey his "gratitude for this message and best wishes for his health and well-being." He praised the Iranian people for fighting "bravely and heroically" for their sovereignty, Iran's state-run Press TV reported.

"We really hope that, based on the courage and desire for independence, the Iranian people, under the guidance of the new leader, will weather this difficult period of trials and peace will come," Putin said.

He also stressed that Russia "intends to maintain" its strategic relations with Iran.

Araghchi said the world witnessed Iran's strength in countering the US during the recent war and that the Islamic Republic is a "stable and powerful establishment."

"With their courage, the Iranian people succeeded in resisting the US aggression and will be able to endure it," he said. He added that it had become clear that Iran has "great friends and allies" like Russia, and conveyed "warmest greetings" from Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Russian leader.

Araghchi said relations between Moscow and Tehran represent a "strategic partnership at the highest level" and will continue to develop "regardless of circumstances."

"We are grateful to you for the solid and strong positions in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

China opposes US sanction on oil refinery

TEHRAN, AP/PTI: China said on Monday it opposed the United States' decision to sanction one of its refineries for purchasing Iranian crude oil shipments.

The US announced on Friday that it would sanction Hengli Petrochemicals in the northeastern port city of Dalian.

The measure blocks the company, along with others involved in transporting Iranian oil, from accessing the US financial system.

Hengli Petrochemicals is among dozens of Chinese buyers of Iranian oil, with China being Iran's largest overall customer. "China always opposes illegal unilateral sanctions that lack a basis in international law and urges the US to stop its wrong practices of abusing sanctions and exercising long-arm jurisdiction," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said. "We will firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," Lin added.

Sikh man assaulted in Canada

TORONTO, PTI: An elderly Sikh man was assaulted by a youth who allegedly shouted racist slurs, including "get out of my country", prompting police to investigate the incident as a "hate-motivated assault". The incident took place on April 22 in Woodstock and the youth is facing multiple charges.

King Charles begins US visit amid rift over Iran

WASHINGTON, AFP: Britain's King Charles III arrives in Washington Monday for a high-stakes state visit aimed at salvaging Britain's frayed ties with Donald Trump, amid extra-tight security following an attack on a gala dinner attended by the US president.

Tensions over the Iran war have rocked the so-called "special relationship" ahead of a trip that was meant to mark the 250th anniversary of independence from the British monarch's ancestors.

Hafiz Saeed's close aide Sheikh Afridi shot dead

LAHORE, PTI

Sheikh Yousaf Afridi, a key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) figure and close associate of Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Landi Kotal in the Khyber region, about 250 km from Islamabad. A police source told PTI that unidentified armed assailants opened indiscriminate fire on Afridi, killing him on the spot. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Afridi is believed to have been a key figure within the regional structure of the banned LeT. He reportedly played a role in recruitment and coordination of the group's activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The incident has sparked widespread anger in the area, and local authorities have launched an investigation to apprehend those responsible," the source said.

An official from Saeed's banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) said Afridi was a "renowned religious scholar" from the Zakhakhel tribe of Khyber and a prominent figure of the Ahl-e-Hadith (Salafi) school of thought.

"He was targeted when unidentified attackers sprayed him with bullets and fled the scene. It should be noted that extremist groups such as Khawarij (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) are currently facing strong intellectual and practical challenges from Salafi scholars," the official said.

23 students abducted in Nigeria

ABUJA (NIGERIA), AP/PTI: Gunmen raided an orphanage in a community in north-central Nigeria and abducted 23 pupils, authorities said on Monday.

Fifteen have since been rescued, but eight remain captive. The attack took place in an "isolated area" of Lokoja, the capital of Kogi State, according to a statement by the state's commissioner, Kingsley Femi Fanwo. The facility, Dahallukitab Group of Schools, was operating illegally, he said. The identities of the gunmen are unknown.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un greets Russia's State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin in Pyongyang on Sunday. REUTERS

North Korea opens memorial for troops killed in Ukraine war

▸ North Korea has opened a memorial museum for its soldiers killed while fighting for Russia against Ukraine, as top leaders from both countries pledged to deepen cooperation, AP/PTI reports from Seoul.

In April 2025, North Korea and Russia said their troops had fought together to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk border region. The two countries have not disclosed how many North Korean soldiers were deployed, but South Korea's intelligence service estimated that around 15,000 troops were sent, of whom about 2,000 were killed. North Korea's Korean Central News Agency reported on Monday that the museum's inaugural ceremony was held in Pyongyang on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the end of the operation in the Kursk region. Leader Kim Jong Un attended the event along with visiting Russian officials, including State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin and Defence Minister Andrei Beloussov.

Milei bars press from govt HQ

▸ The president blocked accredited reporters from entering the government's headquarters and took to social media, in all caps, to insult the country's news media as "filthy scum that claims to be journalists", AP/PTI reports from Buenos Aires.

He also posted an AI-generated image showing a local TV journalist in an orange prison jumpsuit. The president in question was not the one many might expect, but Argentina's radical libertarian leader, Javier Milei. Milei's decision last week to expel the entire press corps from the Casa Rosada — the Argentine equivalent of the White House — marked the latest escalation in a wide-ranging anti-media campaign that has become a hallmark of his tenure.

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally and Pope Leo meet at the Vatican City on Monday. The two Christian leaders pledge to overcome differences "no matter how intractable they may appear". REUTERS

42 killed in Chad water dispute

▸ At least 42 people were killed in eastern Chad after a clash between two families over a water point escalated into a cycle of reprisals, AP/PTI reports from N'Djamena (Chad).

Deputy prime minister Limane Mahamat, during a visit to the village of Igote in Wadi Fira province near the Sudan border, said 42 people were killed and 10 wounded in the clashes on Saturday. He added that the injured were evacuated to the provincial health centre. Mahamat said the cycle of reprisals had spread over a fairly large area, prompting intervention by the army.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No. 565/STBA/04/2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway stations over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for the period as mentioned against the station:

Sl.	Name of the Station	Station Code	Station Category	Period of contract
1	Hindupur	HUP	NSG-4	As per the Policy Guidelines received from Railway Board
2	Whitefield	WFD		
3	Mandya	MYA		
4	Ramangaram	RMGM		
5	Tumakuru	TK		

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 29-05-2026.

Date and time of opening of application: 15:05 hrs. of 29-05-2026

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/61/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NOs. 3 AND 4 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 06/04/2026

CMP No. 375/2023

(VIDEO CONFERENCING/PHYSICAL HEARING)

Petitioner/s
M/s. Megalith Ventures Private Limited.
A Company Incorporated Under
The Provisions Of The Companies Act, 2013
Having Its Registered Office At
1269/10, Opp. To K.H.B. Bus Stop
Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 079.
Represented By Its Director.

Respondent/s
Sri. B. Ramaswamy And Others

To,
R3 Sri. Seshadri R.
Aged About 34 Years,
S/0. B. Ramaswamy
Residing At Railway Gollahalli Village,
Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru- 562 123.
R4 Smt. R. Swetha
Aged About 33 Years,
D/o. B. Ramaswamy
Residing At Railway Gollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk,
Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru — 562 123.
.... **RESPONDENT/ S**

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11 (6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 ,as in the copy annexed hereunto

Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on 03/06/2026 at 10:30 A.M in case you intend to contest the petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this Court, on the 06th Day of April 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology
(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401044/2401067, E-mail- japit doit@rediffmail.com

Corrigendum for Cancellation

It is to inform that the Tender Ref.: JAP-IT/JHSECURE-1/2025 for "Procurement of Supply, Installation and Support for High End Server (02), End Point Protection Unit Rate (8,000 Users), Smart LED TV 65 Inch (02) for JAPIT, Ranchi, Jharkhand" has been cancelled and the same has also been published on Govt. official site at Jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR Ref No. 348716

Sd/-
(OSD, JAP-IT)

PR 378543 Information Technology(26-27)D

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. PHQ/15/GPC/1898-1/2026 Bhopal, Dated: 16-04-2026

"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"

Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for Purchase of equipment for training institutions, Police Head Quarter Bhopal on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

Smart Class Equipments with Digital Components

Sl. No	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	EMD Paid online through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fess (Rs.)
1	SMART CLASS EQUIPMENT WITH DIGITAL CONTENTS SOFTWARE	03 Nos	9,00,000/-	10,000/-
		Total Rs.	**9,00,000/-**	**10,000/-**

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in /nicgep/app
4. **Critical Date Sheet:**

Published Date	17-04-2026 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	17-04-2026 Time 16:00 PM
Pre Bid Meeting Date	23-04-2026 Time 12:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	30-04-2026 Time 12:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date	07-05-2026 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	08-05-2026 Time 16:00 PM

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price- Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/- (Sandeep Dixit)
AIG (Provisioning)
For- Director General of Police
Madhya Pradesh

G-12035/26

CORRIGENDUM FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/FEB/03 DATED. 28-02-2026

Corrigendum No. 04 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/FEB/03, dated: 28-02-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-04** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

CE/Con/LMG Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

CONSTRUCTION OF BALANCE WORK

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2026/APR/02 Dated: 20-04-2026. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. CE/CON/DK/EPC/2026/02. Name of work:** Construction of Balance Work of Single Line BG Tunnel No. 6 Main Tunnel (Length-1746 m), Escape Tunnel (Length-1542 m) and Cut and Cover (Length- 250 m) and Slope protection work from Portal P1 side and other ancillary Works between Ch. 45750.0 m to Ch. 50746.0 m in Pherima-Piphema Section in Connection with Dimapur-Kohima New BG Line Project. **Approx. value:** ₹506,18,35,956.57/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹10,12,36,800/-.**Date & Time of closing of tender: 14.30** hrs. on **29-05-2026 & opening at: 15.30** hrs. on **04-06-2026**. The complete information and tender document of above e-Tender will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/CON/ NL Project/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

BLOCKBUSTER OPENING

Michael Jackson biopic tops box office

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Jaafar Jackson as Michael Jackson in 'Michael.'

"Michael", the much-anticipated biopic about late superstar Michael Jackson, debuted atop the North American box office this weekend with a thrilling $97 million, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The film, directed by Antoine Fuqua and distributed by Lionsgate, chronicles the legendary artist's rise from a child star to one of the world's most famous pop icons.

In the starring role is Jaafar Jackson, the pop star's nephew.

"This is a record-shattering opening for a musical biography," said analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The film has strong audience approval, "playing as a feel-good, nostalgic appreciation," he said, but added that "reviews are weak". "Most critics feel the film is superficial and avoids the complicated parts of the performer's life, including allegations of sexual misconduct," Gross said, while noting a Part 2 is in the works.

With the film already released in Europe, it has taken in nearly $220 million globally, according to Exhibitor Relations. In second place at the US and Canadian box office was "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie", with another $21.2 million.

After spending the last three weeks in the top spot, the animated sequel from Universal and Illumination Studios has earned over $775 million at the global box office, Exhibitor Relations reported.

Third place went to Amazon MGM's hit sci-fi adventure comedy "Project Hail Mary", with $13.2 million.

Why inclusion is failing in classrooms

DEVANGANA MISHRA

In India today, an estimated one in 68 children under the age of 10 is diagnosed with autism. Most of these children are enrolled in public or affordable private schools. However, most do not continue in these systems in any meaningful way. Many are moved to special schools, soon become homeschooled, or remain in classrooms without adequate educational support.

Inclusion is present in form, but not in function, in Indian classrooms. Across schools and colleges, the idea of inclusion is often interpreted as physical placement. If a student is enrolled and attends school, the expectation of the amendment of inclusion is considered met. Less attention is paid to whether the student can participate, learn, and make daily progress.

Students on the autism spectrum frequently encounter classrooms that are not equipped to respond to their needs. A child who struggles with communication, transitions, or sensory regulation is often managed through informal adjustments based on the behaviour. These may include simplified or no assignments, limited participation, or temporary removal from the classroom during moments of unadaptability or difficulty.

A common example is when a student experiences distress during a lesson. The immediate response is often removal from the classroom. While this may address the immediate situation, it does not build the student's ability to remain and regulate within a learning environment.

Similarly, when a student is unable to complete grade-level work due to a lack of sustained attention to the task, the task is often simplified without a structured plan to build skills progressively, or the student is excused from it entirely.

Over time, such measures tend to become permanent arrangements.

This affects expectations and changes the narrative and landscape of disabilities. Academic goals are often overlooked early on, given the system's limited capacity to provide structured testing, interventions, and support. Behavioural challenges are managed in the moment rather than addressed through proactive, consistently trained strategies by healthcare workers or trained staff. As a result, students are present in classrooms but are not always engaged in sustained learning.

The issue is not limited to individual classrooms, but across the nation. At one level, there are institutional discussions, awareness efforts, and general commitments to inclusion. At another, the responsibility for day-to-day support is often placed on individuals with minimal training, such as an anganwadi worker, a shadow teacher without structured guidance, or a parent attempting to assist within the school setting.

These efforts are important toward inclusion but insufficient. Without clear frameworks, bottom-up training, and defined outcomes from that training, support tends to focus on immediate management rather than on the long-term development of the pathways. The result is a narrowing of what is considered achievable for the student with disability, in our case, autism.

This pattern is made complex by broader structural realities. More than 80 per cent of the world's population with disabilities lives in developing countries. In such contexts, poverty, limited healthcare, weaker social systems, and restricted access to education and employment increase both the risk of disability and the difficulty of overcoming it. India is home to approximately 27 to 28 million persons with disabilities; these factors shape how inclusion is experienced within schools.

How to be inclusive?

Inclusion requires trained individuals to support students with autism and other disabilities as they move toward independence. It takes a while to remove the training wheels for autism. Without this, systems tend to rely on reduced expectations.

Efforts to address these gaps remain limited in scale. We need institutions that can place and train those interested in counselling and psychology, embedding them within classrooms to work directly on inclusion and education for autism.

The focus should be on enabling participation through structured support. It should include breaking down learning tasks, developing communication systems, addressing behavioural challenges through consistent strategies, and tracking progress over time with an individualised educational plan and a grade-level checklist. Students should be moved toward greater independence within mainstream educational settings.

This model is labour-intensive and increases the cost per child, but also reflects the level of investment required for effective inclusion. Without that, inclusion remains limited to basic accommodation.

There is also a question of capacity. India has a large youth population with the interest and potential to contribute to this space, but not enough structured pathways to bring this potential to classrooms. Building such pathways is essential if inclusion is to move beyond isolated efforts.

At present, there is a visible gap between institutional intent, expert understanding and classroom practice. Large-scale discussions and awareness efforts exist alongside minimal, uneven support at the grassroots level. This gap shapes what students experience on a daily basis.

(The author is an entrepreneur in inclusive education sector)

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Real-world jobs can help you thrive

BHIMA RAO

In many developing countries, college education is expensive, especially in big cities. For underprivileged families, education is a lifelong asset, yet accessing it can feel like climbing a steep hill. Rising inflation and global uncertainties have made it harder. While education opens doors, managing expenses and successfully completing studies remain challenges.

Countries like the USA, Australia, Canada, and most European countries allow students over 18 to work limited hours per week, in university libraries, canteens, and other safe places inside campuses. Yet, students do work in petrol bunks, stores, malls, and restaurants, book stalls and the distribution of newspapers. In India, students under the age of 18 are not legally allowed to work in registered firms. There are no provisions for any student to work within the University or related organisations.

However, many students in India do need and aspire to take up part-time jobs, mainly to reduce the burden on their parents, become independent, or just earn some pocket money. This helps them earn while building confidence, practical skills, and real-world understanding.

Part-time work and learning

Most student jobs in India are in the unorganised sector. These roles usually have no fixed salary, hours, or formal structure. Even so, students gain hands-on experience and life skills that classrooms alone cannot provide.

There is a common belief that part-time work affects academics. In reality, many students balance both well with proper time management and go on to achieve good results. Industries often point out the lack of practical exposure and basic skills among new joinees. While government initiatives such as internships and skill programmes are improving the situation, part-time work remains one of the most effective ways to gain real-world experience.

Remember, no job is too small. Part-time work should not be seen as below dignity—it strengthens personality and prepares students for real responsibilities. Now, let's see the types of part-time jobs one can try.

Unorganised sector

These jobs are flexible and depend on local needs. Examples include:

- Morning milk or newspaper distribution
- Door-to-door sales
- Assisting small local businesses (in-store sales, accounting, bookkeeping)
- Driving taxi or auto (where feasible)

In some regions, opportunities are unique. In Kashmir, students spend spare time rowing boats in Dal Lake, working as tourist guides, selling local products, or assisting photographers.

Event management is another strong option. Students can work occasionally at weddings, exhibitions, and conferences as reception staff, volunteers, anchors, or support crew. These roles often offer good earnings for short durations.

Organised sector

Though formal provisions are limited in India, students still find roles such as:

- Sales associate in shops or retail counters
- Hotel receptionist or front desk support
- Library assistant
- Work in petrol bunks, restaurants, or cafés
- Delivery services
- Data entry or back-office work
- Tele-calling and customer support
- Assistant roles in printing, publishing, or book stores
- Accounts or administrative support in larger stores or warehouses

Service platforms have also opened new options. For example, Urban Company offers "Insta Help" services in which individuals take on tasks such as kitchen cleaning, meal preparation, mopping, dusting, laundry, ironing, and packing. Work is time-bound and paid hourly.

Self-employment

Students can also create their own income sources:

- Content writing, blogging, or freelancing (design, coding, video editing)
- Online tutoring for school or college subjects
- Translation based on language skills
- Data entry projects
- Selling artwork or handmade products
- Online or door-to-door sales of books, clothes, and household items

Part-time work is not just about earning. It helps students:

- Build confidence and independence
- Improve communication and interpersonal skills
- Understand workplace behaviour
- Gain financial awareness
- Prepare for long-term careers

For students who want to earn while learning, the focus should be on choosing flexible, safe work that fits alongside their studies. With the right balance, part-time work becomes a strong foundation for future growth.

Next week:
How to find part-time jobs?

(The author is a human resource consultant. This is a limited series for students focusing on earning while learning. Suggestions? Write to us: dhcareers@deccanherald.co.in)

Handling careers in turbulence

Preparing for the worst while expecting the best is the strategy to deal with unexpected turns in career, writes Venkatesh Raghavendra

Even as I begin to write this, every individual I met in the last few days is guessing the potential direction of the war in the Middle East. It is anybody's guess what direction the geopolitical events will take and what the new world order will look like. Against this backdrop, how much should you worry about your present and future career prospects?

As in most situations, there is no "one size fits all" hypothesis here. And in every seemingly dark or unknown-fraught situation, there can be an opportunity. So, what four things could you be focused on during these turbulent times to feel you are in control and to be better prepared for any surprise developments in your career universe?

- **Speak to your mentors and champions:** Hanging out just with your peers and those who think just like you can add to your anxiety [you need the peers for a different reason, of course]. Seek out those who bring a different worldview or come from adjacent fields, not directly your own. Their perspectives can give you a well-rounded view as opposed to a single band of people from one narrow sector, who can add to the agitated state of mind. This also assumes that you have been cultivating such mentors, guides, and champions throughout your career. If you have not done enough of that, now is the time to start.
- **Get practical about it:** Researching into new opportunities and keeping your profile and resume fine-tuned is always a good thing. We underestimate how long it takes to research and find a new gig, or even to identify options for a new assignment. The job market is getting squeezed because of the overlay of multiple developments – AI looming large, a war disrupting the world order, and traditional immigration rules in many geographies getting upended, to name just a few. As the old axiom goes, don't dig a well when the house is on fire!

With the changing geopolitical context and the hoopla around AI, the chances are that every resume will be outdated within a matter of months. So, dust off that CV of yours, which is a few years old probably by now, and put on your research and editing lens. One friend and senior tech specialist I spoke to recently lamented, "I knew it was coming, but was surprised how fast it came," referring to his pink slip.

- **Stop over-analysing**: Stop thinking too much, especially about events beyond your control. We all tend to start making our own guesses and speculating about "what's next" when it comes to global events. Remember, even heads of state are sometimes at a loss. Despite their posse of advisors, they are unable to predict what the big changes on the horizon are. Over-analysis can easily lead to an anxiety spiral and cloud your thinking further. Instead, closely look for patterns in specific fields to stay better informed, or keep an eye out for changing trends. Peel the layers of the 'headlines onion' and look for insights that can remain hidden.

Is it time for a big career pivot?: If you have been both smart and lucky to build some financial buffer and have the courage to wait out the rough patch, this may be the time for that dream experiment. If at all, you were all along dreaming of a major pivot in your career, this is the time to do it. Have you always been passionate about something other than what you are doing? Then take the plunge to test the waters. Even though it may seem counterintuitive, downturns and disruptions are times when one can afford to take risks, as the stakes are already lower. You can also look at intersectional fields to insure yourself a little more against global disruptions. Health and AI, technology, but coupled with security management, are examples of such intersectionality.

In the end, just learn to shrug and get philosophical. The anticipation of something terrible can many times be more damaging than the actual event. Instead, focus on ways in which you can strengthen your own position both within an organisation and from a skills perspective. Even though no one knows how long the turbulence will last, everything is cyclical in the end. An upward swing is hopefully not too far away.

(The author is a global social entrepreneur)

BULLETIN BOARD

Video editor intern
ContextQA is hiring a video editor intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premiere Pro and relevant skills can apply by May 23. The stipend is Rs 3,000-5,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/608620.

Fashion design internship
Saadgi House is hiring a fashion design intern who can work from home. Students with illustration and fashion designing skills can apply by May 23. The stipend is Rs 5,000-8,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/7beaa6.

Interior design
The Signature Design Studio is hiring an interior design intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of AutoCAD, Autodesk 3ds Max, Google SketchUp, Interior design, and V-Ray can apply by May 22. The stipend is Rs 8,000-12,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/16924c.

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Biz Bytes

MobiKwik Group secures NBFC licence

NEW DELHI, PTI: FinTech firm One MobiKwik Systems's application for a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India, the company said on Monday.

The firm said the NBFC licence will enable it to launch a new lending division – MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited (MFSPL, a wholly-owned subsidiary), which will help expand its regulated lending capabilities, design credit products, and serve a broader base of consumers and merchants.

Stock markets bounce back after 3-day dip

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded nearly 1% on Monday, snapping the three-day falling streak following a rally in Reliance Industries and Sun Pharma and positive global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 639.42 points or 0.83% to settle at 77,303.63. During the day, it surged 755.83 points or 0.98% to 77,420.04. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 194.75 points or 0.81% to close at 24,092.70.

Microsoft cuts OpenAI revenue share

SAN FRANCISCO, AP: Microsoft on Monday said it will no longer pay a share of its revenue to ChatGPT maker OpenAI, the latest move to untether a close partnership that helped unleash an artificial intelligence boom.

OpenAI relied exclusively on Microsoft's investments in cloud computing services to build the technology that helped make ChatGPT a household name. Microsoft, in turn, relied on OpenAI's technology to build its own AI assistant Copilot.

Infosys to set up campus in Vizag

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Infosys is set to establish an IT campus in Visakhapatnam, after the AP government allotted 20 acres of land in Yendada to the company at a nominal rate of 99 paise per acre.

Infosys is expected to invest around Rs 750 crore in the project, which is envisaged as a 10,000-seat facility projected to generate approximately 7,000 jobs.

Sun Pharma to acquire US healthcare firm Organon for $11.75 billion

The Indian company will pay $14 per share in an all-cash deal

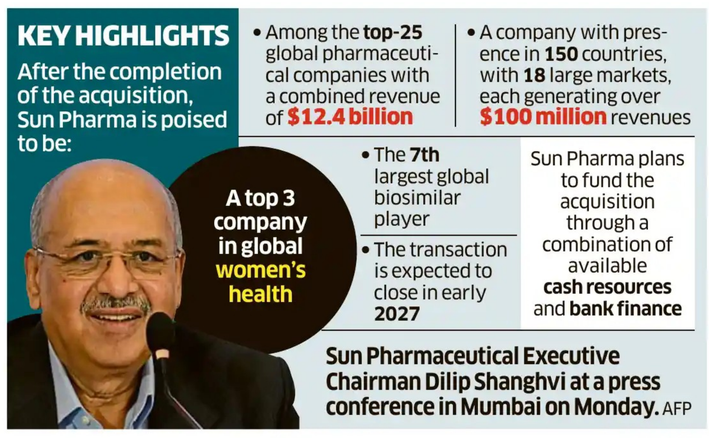
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd on Monday said it will acquire US-based healthcare company Organon & Co in an all-cash deal with an enterprise valuation of $11.75 billion (about Rs 1.10 lakh crore). This is considered to be one of the largest overseas acquisitions by an Indian company.

As part of the definite agreement, Sun Pharma will pay $14 per share. It is expected to be closed by early 2027, subject to regulatory clearances and approval by the shareholders. The company's shares rose 7% to close the day's trading at Rs 1,733.80 per share on BSE.

Organon is a global healthcare company formed through a spinoff from Merck, known as MSD outside of the US and Canada, in 2021. Organon has a legacy of deep trust and strong brand equity among HCPs, patients, regulators and other stakeholders. A global leader in women's health, the company's portfolio includes more than 70 products across Women's Health and General Medicines, which includes biosimilars, commercialised across 140 countries, with the US, Europe, China, Canada, and Brazil among its largest markets.

The proposed acquisition of Organon is aligned with Sun Pharma's strategy of growing its Innovative Medicines business.


KEY HIGHLIGHTS
After the completion of the acquisition, Sun Pharma is poised to be:
A top 3 company in global women's health
• Among the top-25 global pharmaceutical companies with a combined revenue of $12.4 billion
• A company with presence in 150 countries, with 18 large markets, each generating over $100 million revenues
• The 7th largest global biosimilar player
• The transaction is expected to close in early 2027
Sun Pharma plans to fund the acquisition through a combination of available cash resources and bank finance
Sun Pharmaceutical Executive Chairman Dilip Shanghvi at a press conference in Mumbai on Monday. AFP

The combined company becomes a stronger player in Established Brands/Branded Generics business. The deal also enables Sun Pharma's entry into biosimilars as a Top-10 global player. Organon's portfolio, global footprint and strong stakeholder relationships shall complement Sun Pharma's existing strengths and enhance long-term value creation.

Addressing a press conference, Dilip Shanghvi, Executive Chairman of Sun Pharma, said, "This is both a 'happy' and 'anxious' moment for me, considering the large nature of the transaction and debt required to fund it. We are 'debt-averse', but 'not risk-averse'. The debt will help us grow and we are comfortable."

He further said, "This transaction represents a significant opportunity for Sun Pharma to build on its vision of Reaching People and Touching Lives. Organon's portfolio, capabilities and global reach are highly complementary to our own, and we believe that bringing the two organisations together can create a stronger and more diversified platform. We have deep respect for Organon's mission and look forward to building on its legacy, while driving sustainable long-term growth."

Sun Pharma plans to fund the acquisition through a combination of available cash resources of $2-2.5 billion on hand, and the balance $9.25-9.75 billion from committed financing from banks.

For the year ended December 31, 2025, Organon reported $6.2 billion in revenue and Adjusted EBITDA of $1.9 billion. Organon had debt of $8.6 billion and cash balance of $574 million. Organon recently closed on a divestiture of a product for which it received an upfront payment of $440 million, the net proceeds of which will further contribute to its March 31, 2026, cash balance.

Carrie Cox, Executive Chair of Organon, commented, "Following a comprehensive review of strategic alternatives, our Board determined that this all-cash transaction offers compelling and immediate value to Organon stockholders. We believe Sun Pharma is well-positioned to support Organon's businesses, employees and patients globally, and to further advance our commitment to delivering impactful medicines and solutions."

India, New Zealand sign FTA; eye to double trade in 5 years

Wellington commits $20 bn investment in India in 15 years

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a free trade agreement (FTA) that seeks to eliminate tariffs on nearly all goods, except sensitive sectors like dairy and agriculture, boost investment flows and make movement of professionals easier.

As part of the deal, New Zealand has committed to invest $20 billion in India over the next 15 years, and the two countries have agreed to double bilateral trade in the next five years.

Wellington has agreed to eliminate duty on all imports from India. New Zealand's average import tariff currently stands at 2.3%. The elimination of tariffs will provide Indian exporters a competitive advantage in the South Pacific island nation.

On the other hand, India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on 95% of goods imports from New Zealand. Fruits like kiwis, cherries, avocados, persimmons, and blueberries imported from New Zealand to India are likely to become cheaper. India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on products like sheep meat, wool, wood, and leather-raw hides, with immediate effect. Tariffs on petroleum oil, malt extract, vegetable oils, selected electrical and mechanical machinery, and peptones will be eliminated in a phased manner.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay signed the deal in New Delhi.

"This agreement will greatly benefit our farmers, youth, women, MSMEs, artisans, startups, students and innovators. It will open new avenues for growth, create opportunities and deepen our synergy across sectors," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

"The investment commitment of $20 billion by New Zealand will further strengthen our cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, innovation and technology, paving the way for a more prosperous and dynamic future for both countries," Modi said.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry claimed that India has protected its key interests in dairy and agriculture, and managed to secure huge win for labour-intensive sectors like textiles and leather.

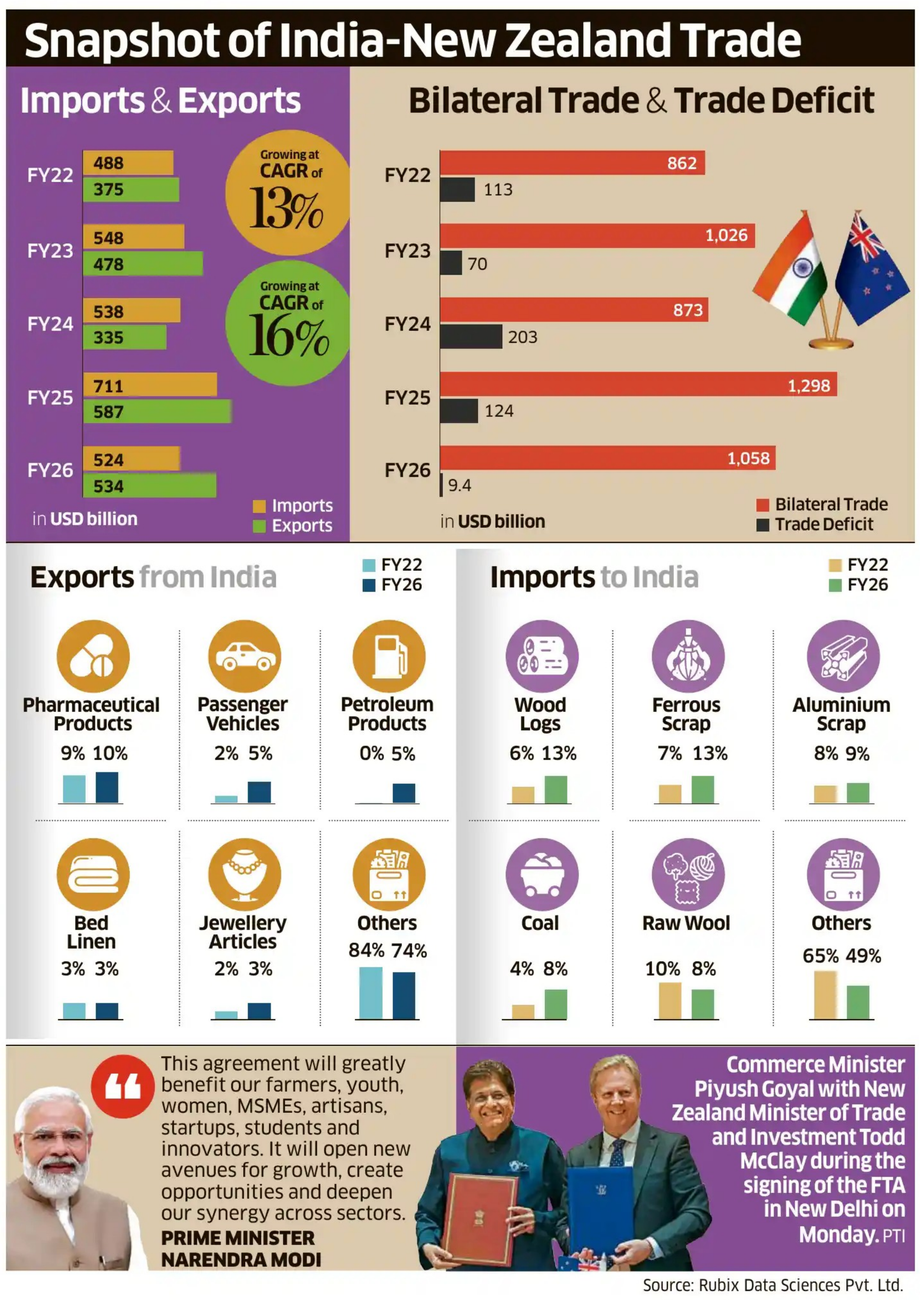
India and New Zealand started negotiations for a trade pact in 2010. The talks were put on hold in 2015, after nine rounds of discussions. It was revived in March 2025 and the conclusion of the negotiation was announced in December.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon described the FTA as a "once-in-a-generation" pact that opens new pathways for trade in goods and services, investment flows, and labour mobility between the two countries.

"This landmark deal means more jobs, higher incomes and more exports by opening the door to 1.4 billion Indian consumers," Luxon said on X.

As part of the deal, New Zealand has agreed to provide a temporary employment entry visa for 5,000 Indian professionals across fields such as IT, engineering, healthcare, education, and construction, along with dedicated categories for AYUSH practitioners, yoga instructors, chefs and music teachers. It has also agreed to provide an additional 1,000 work-and-holiday visas.

The pact is aimed at doubling bilateral trade to $5 billion over the next five years. India-New Zealand goods trade stood at $1.3 billion in 2024-25. Trade balance is in favour of New Delhi, with India's exports at $711.1 billion and imports at $587.13 billion in FY25.



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with New Zealand Minister of Trade and Investment Todd McClay during the signing of the FTA in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Source: Rubix Data Sciences Pvt. Ltd.

Sonata Software appoints new CEO

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mid-tier IT services company Sonata Software on Monday announced the appointment of Rajsekhar Datta Roy (Raj) as Chief Executive Officer, effective May 9, 2026, for a period of three years. In this role, Raj will lead Sonata Software's international business.

Rajsekhar Datta Roy

The Board of Directors of Sonata Software also announced that upon the expiry of his term on May 8, 2026, Samir Dhir will cease to hold office as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Dhir also resigned from his position as Executive Director, effective close of business on May 8.

To support continuity and ensure a smooth transition, Samir will continue as an Advisor to the Board of Directors of Sonata Software until December 31, 2026, the company said.

Raj brings more than three decades of experience in scaling technology practices and leading global delivery organisations for large enterprise clients. Sonata Software said he has played a pivotal role in expanding the company's Dynamics and Microsoft practices into some of the company's largest industry-focused offerings.

Over the years, Raj has spearheaded key delivery portfolios across product engineering, enterprise systems deployment, and large-scale digital transformation programmes. Over the past year, he has been instrumental in advancing Sonata Software's transformation into an AI-first organisation. He has also led initiatives around the company's Responsible-first AI approach and the development of Sonata Harmoni.AI. In addition, Raj has played a key role in improving operational margins over the past few quarters through focused execution and technology-led efficiencies, the company said.

Amazon Now to expand to 100 cities with 1k micro-fulfillment centres

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amazon's rapid delivery service, Amazon Now, will be expanded to 100 cities across India. The e-commerce giant will also scale up its specialised fulfilment infrastructure and expand to over 1,000 micro-fulfilment centres (MFCs) to support this growth.

Amazon said customers across metros and non-metro cities, including Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh and Ahmedabad, among other cities, along with the existing cities of Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, will be able to shop from Amazon Now. It said the service offers a curated selection of thousands of daily essentials such as groceries, personal care, fashion & beauty products and small appliances, among others.

"The expansion will help over 16,000 farmers leverage our technology and operations to take their produce directly to customers through sellers on Amazon Now," said Harsh Goyal, Vice-President – Everyday Essentials, Amazon India.

REVENUE LOSS

India's refiners absorbing hefty cost of Iran war

BLOOMBERG

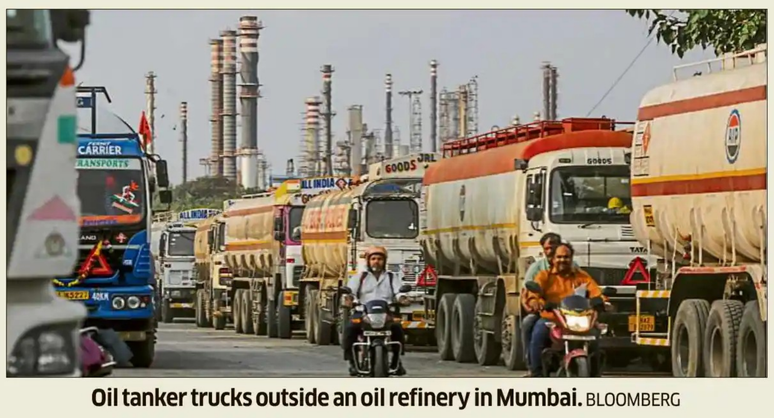
India's efforts to shield consumers from a historic oil shock are reverberating through the refining sector, squeezing margins, stretching balance sheets and forcing companies into costly workarounds.

Since US and Israeli strikes on Iran began at the end of February, refiners in the world's third-largest crude importer have had to contend with the effects of a sharp rise in prices, freight and insurance costs, all compounded by a weaker rupee. They have also had to scramble to find alternatives to Middle East cargoes.

The government, with an eye on price-sensitive voters, has instead prioritised fuel availability and accessibility. It has kept pump prices frozen through the war — limiting state processors' ability to pass on costs — while imposing crippling taxes to curb exports. Refiners have also been pushed to maintain run rates and to crank up production of low-margin liquefied petroleum gas, to help resolve an acute shortage of the cooking fuel.

The result, refiners say, is unprecedented strain. "We have never seen such a situation earlier," Srinivas Tuttagunta, chief operating officer of private behemoth Reliance Industries Ltd., told analysts late on Friday.

Freight rates have jumped 10–15 times, crude premiums have surged to $20–$30 a barrel from just a few dollars pre-conflict, and war-risk insurance has ballooned from thousands to near million dollars, he added.


Oil tanker trucks outside an oil refinery in Mumbai. BLOOMBERG

India's integrated processors need crude prices around $80–$85 a barrel to break even, according to analysts at Macquarie — a level the market has far exceeded in recent weeks. Brent touched $108 a barrel on Monday as efforts to resume peace talks over the Iran war stalled, adding to pressure on the government to consider raising prices for the first time in four years.

Oil refining and retailing companies are currently losing revenue worth about Rs 100 ($1.1) per litre on diesel and Rs 20 on gasoline, according to the oil ministry.

Based on India's crude import cost and low fixed margins, gasoline and diesel prices could credibly be increased by Rs 25-28 a litre, Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note.

Political considerations, though, will likely keep expected hikes modest.

Reliance, which operates the world's largest single-site refinery, reported March-quarter profit fell about 9% to its lowest in six quarters, dragged by its oil-to-chemicals business. Smaller state-owned peer Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. separately reported a steeper drop of 68% on year in quarterly profits. "The uncertainties due to logistical constraints, volatility of crude oil prices, do pose challenges," Rohit Agrawala, finance director at Chennai Petroleum, told analysts in an earnings call on Friday.

Supply does not seem set to improve, with oil imports down 10% year-on-year so far in April, and still-limited flows from the Persian Gulf pushing India to tap its strategic and commercial reserves.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru–560030

No.: E.E/(BTM)/kppp/02/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK Kppp Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BSCC, Bengaluru invites tenders form eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru South City Corporation and equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	1st Call
1	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Tavarekere Sub division (Ward No. 17, 18 & 19). **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD (Rs.): 18,750/-, Category: Others.**
2	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Madiwala Sub division (Ward No. 20, 21 & 22). **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD (Rs.): 18,750/-, Category: Others.**
3	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Lakkasandra Sub division (Ward No. 23, 24 & 29). **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD (Rs.): 18,750/-, Category: Others.**
4	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Ejipura Sub division (Ward No. 25, 26 & 27). **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD (Rs.): 18,750/-, Category: Others.**
5	Establishment of temporary mansoon control room in Koramangala Sub division (Ward No. 28 & 30). **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD (Rs.): 12,500/-, Category: Others.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Kppp Portal of the Government of Karnataka. **(2)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders on **08.05.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** **(3)** Date and time of opening tender on **11.05.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BSCC

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.10/338 Date: 23-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the Work of **Construction of Training Centre and Guest House at UBDT, College of Engineering, Davangere. Amounting to Rs. 3,84,67,897/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 24-04-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/160/Adverto/2026-27

(An Autonomous Institute of Goverment of Karnataka)
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU

No.SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/DIET/15/2025-26 Dated:27.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-tenders is invited from interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP act 1999 and 2000 act for notification of Tender for Supply of Diet Items to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospitals, Government HSIS Gosha Hospital & Charaka Super Speciality Hospital attached to SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from eProcurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ from 27.04.2026. 2) Date of Online Queries: 06.05.2026 at 5:30 pm. 3) Last Date and Time for uploading of e-tender in e-procurement portal: 11.05.2026 upto 5:30 pm. 4) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids (Single Cover System): 13.05.2026 at 10:30 am.

For more details pertaining this tender, contact the Director and Dean / Assistant Administrator of the Institute during Office Hours.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean,
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/378/CCL/2026-27

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> Just take accountability, each and every guy; it can't be about one or two guys. It has to be about the whole unit and a lot of people will take accountability for that for sure.
>
> **RISHABH PANT, LSG SKIPPER**

RCB pacers decimate DC

Bhuvneshwar, Hazlewood breathe fire as champs roar to 9-wicket win

NEW DELHI, PTI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru rode a storm of sheer pace fury to annihilate Delhi Capitals by nine wickets in their IPL clash here on Monday, after unleashing a Powerplay spell so vicious that it virtually ended the contest within the first three overs.

It was carnage of the highest order, a Powerplay ambush so brutal that the Delhi Capitals never quite recovered as RCB unleashed a devastating new-ball spell to script one of the most dramatic openings in IPL history.

Josh Hazlewood (4/12) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/5) turned the Powerplay into a demolition act, ripping through Delhi with two ruthless three-over bursts that left the hosts gasping at 13 for six.

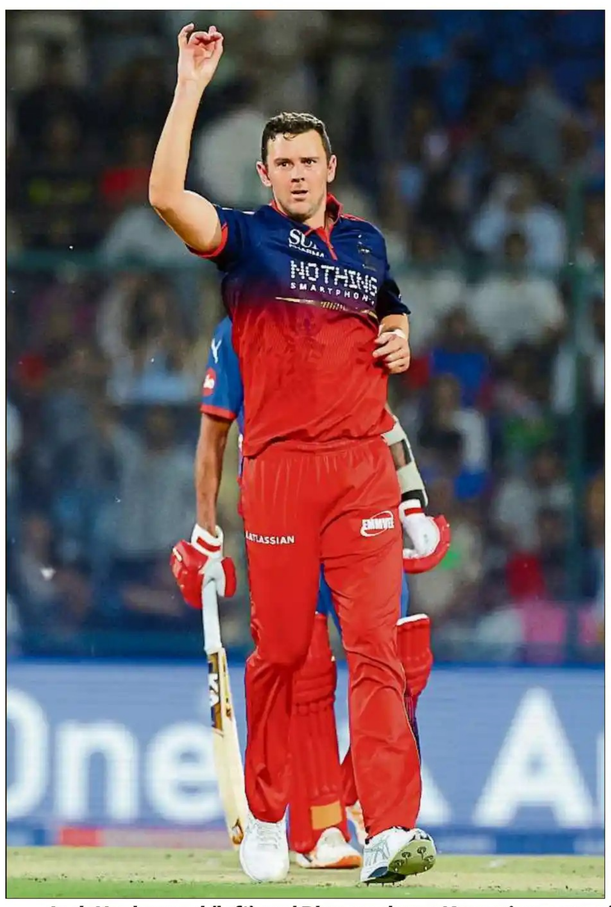
Only Abhishek Porel (30), David Miller (19) and Kyle Jamieson (12) reached double-digit scores. The home team scored eight fours and a six.

All Delhi could manage was 75 in 16.3 overs but eventually deflected the ignominy of posting lowest IPL score. RCB had managed 49 in 2017 against the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Chasing a modest target, RCB openers Virat Kohli (23) and Jacob Bethell (20) ensured a smooth start.

There were no hiccups except that Bethell was done in by an exceptional catch by T Natarajan off Kyle Jamieson.

Devdutt Padikkal scored a fluent 34 as some solid RCB batting took the game away from Delhi in no time.



Josh Hazlewood (left) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's mesmerising performances in Powerplay steered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a thumping win over Delhi Capitals on Monday. REUTERS

Kohli's trademark composure combined with Padikkal's free-flowing strokeplay made the chase a mere formality as the duo raced past the finish line with ease in 6.3 overs, capping off a dominant night for the visitors.

The packed house came to watch their favourite batter but Kohli didn't get the opportunity to enthral his fans much due to a small target. The local boy ended the match with consecutive sixes off T Natarajan.

From the dizzying high of piling up 264 in a batting spectacle that still somehow ended in defeat against Punjab Kings, the fall for Delhi was dramatic.

The same batting unit that was brimming with intent suddenly appeared tentative, brittle, and out of answers, undone by relentless pressure and disciplined bowling.

It was a stark reminder of the format's unforgiving nature, where dominance can swiftly give way to disarray, and confidence can evaporate almost overnight.

The RCB bowlers reduced Delhi to survival mode inside the first three overs, their relentless accuracy and movement turning the contest one-sided almost instantly.

The mayhem began as early as the second ball of the innings when Bhuvneshwar produced an in-dipping yorker to uproot debutant Sahil Parakh's middle stump, setting the tone for what followed: absolute destruction.

If that was a warning shot, Hazlewood turned it into a full-blown collapse. The Australian quick sent shockwaves through the packed stadium by removing last-match centurion KL Rahul (1) and Sameer Rizvi (0) off successive deliveries.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS: Sahil Parakh b Bhuvneshwar 0, KL Rahul c Jitesh b Hazlewood 1, Nitish Rana c Padikkal b Hazlewood 1, Sameer Rizvi c Jitesh b Hazlewood 0, Tristan Stubbs c Padikkal b Bhuvneshwar 5, Axar Patel c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 0, Abishek Porel b Hazlewood 30, David Miller c Jitesh b Dar 19, Kyle Jamieson lbw Krunal 12, Kuldeep Yadav b Suyash 3, Dushmantha Chameera (not out) 0. Extras (W-4) 4. **TOTAL (all out, 16.3 overs) 75.**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-2, 4-7, 5-7, 6-8, 7-43, 8-62, 9-71.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3-0-5-3, Josh Hazlewood 3.3-0-12-4, Rasikh Dar 2-0-21-1, Romario Shepherd 2-0-21-0, Suyash Sharma 4-1-7-1, Krunal Pandya 2-0-9-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU: Jacob Bethell c Natarajan b Jamieson 20, Virat Kohli (not out) 23, Devdutt Padikkal (not out) 34. **TOTAL (for 1 wkt, 6.3 overs) 77.**

Fall of wicket: 1-26.

Bowling: Kyle Jamieson 3-0-42-1, Dushmantha Chameera 2-0-18-0, Axar Patel 1-0-5-0, T Natarajan 0.3-0-12-0.

Result: RCB won by 9 wkts.

PoM: Josh Hazlewood

RCB's next match: Vs GT (April 30, Ahmedabad)

DC skipper Axar baffled at batting implosion

NEW DELHI, PTI: Axar Patel didn't have much to answer when Delhi Capitals failed to defend 264 against Punjab Kings on Saturday and looked even more perplexed after his team crumbled to 75 versus Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their second straight IPL surrender within a space of 48 hours.

Delhi Capitals were reduced to 9 for 6 inside Powerplay overs with Bhuveneshwar Kumar getting appreciable swing and Josh Hazlewood executing short ball tactic to perfection.

"Even I don't know what happened. That's why they say you have to be on your toes in cricket. We have to move on from this match," Axar said at post match presentation ceremony.

The single that David Miller refused in a one-run defeat against Gujarat Titans did affect the tournament momentum for DC and Karun Nair dropping dollies against Punjab Kings only made matters worse.

"From today's point of view, you can say it did effect, but you can look back, if the catches were taken (Nair) or had we taken the single against GT, then momentum would have been with us. The game is such that there is no room for ifs and buts. You have to be positive, you had a bad day and take the positives from the last 5-6 games," Axar added.

However the DC skipper refused the notion that there was exaggerated swing on offer which one felt after Bhuveneshwar Kumar's banana inswing cleaned up a clueless former India U-19 Sahil Parakh.

Hazlewood, who dismissed KL Rahul and Nitish Rana with short balls, said that he wasn't sure what kind of track would be on offer after close to 530 runs were scored in the previous game.

"Probably turning up here after 500-plus runs in the last game, was not sure what was going to happen," Hazlewood said.

Smarting Royals face peerless Punjab challenge

LIVE 7:30 PM

Under-fire skipper Parag will hope to lead from the front

MULLANPUR, PTI

Riyan Parag, a captain short of runs, will need to lead from the front to challenge a peerless Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

In the Shreyas Iyer-Ricky Ponting era that began last year, Punjab Kings have scripted a sensational turnaround, making them the most consistent and assuring unit in the competition, attributes they longed for ages.

Virat Kohli owned the tag of chase-master with his remarkable consistency over the years and now Iyer too is on that path. As a leader and batter, he has displayed commendable calm in high-pressure situations to help Punjab Kings stay unbeaten in the tournament thus far.

Iyer has led brilliantly but the team as a whole too has functioned like a well oiled unit. Last season, they managed to defend the lowest total in IPL history and on a scorching Saturday in New Delhi, Iyer and Co. gunned down a record 265-run target with ridiculous ease.

The six wins in seven games (one washout) has also been made possible by the destructive opening duo of Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh, who put their team on course for a historic chase at Kotla by hammering 116 runs in the powerplay.

Punjab Kings bowlers took a beating in that match but considering the batting friendly conditions and small ground dimensions, they could not be blamed much.

Playing their last game of the season here before hosting their final three league games of the season in Dharamsala, Punjab Kings will be expected to steamroll Rajasthan Royals.

The Royals have lost momentum in the middle phase of the tournament having won their first four games. While teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has produced jaw dropping performances, the team has not been able to maintain consistency.

Eight games into the season, captain Parag has failed to deliver in the middle order, collecting just 88 runs in eight innings at an underwhelming strike rate of 112.82. The pressure on him is mounting with every game.

"I think different venues everyday, different games, different ways to approach it. I feel we don't know how Chandigarh is going to be as of now. I mean, they chased down a big score, yes, in Delhi, but Chandigarh is a new ground and a new wicket, a new soil," said Parag.

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has failed to deliver with the bat, managing just 88 runs in eight innings so far.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	7	6	0	1	13	1.333
Royal Challengers	8	6	2	0	12	1.919
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	0	10	0.602
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	0	8	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	0	6	-1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

After a failure against LSG, Rajasthan Royals' teenage prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi bounced back in style with a smashing century against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Criticism affects me: Sooryavanshi

NEW DELHI, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi says criticism fuelled his latest IPL heroics, in a rare insight into how the 15-year-old handles the pressure of being the outstanding young talent in world cricket.

The teenage Indian batsman smacked a 36-ball century to become the youngest and fastest to score 1,000 T20 runs, following a couple of rare flops including a golden duck.

His 103 off 37 balls for Rajasthan Royals against Sunrisers Hyderabad came after being dismissed on the first ball by their debutant pace bowler Praful Hinge on April 13.

Returning to face Hyderabad on Saturday, the left-hander launched Hinge for four consecutive sixes in the opening over, setting the tone for his second IPL hundred.

'Answer with bat'

"After getting out in the last match I went back and checked my phone," Sooryavanshi, whose media appearances are restricted because of his age, said in a video released by Rajasthan.

"I saw a lot of things. I usually don't pay attention to those things, but when someone says something to me personally, it affects me a bit.

"I only wanted to answer with my bat."

His knock, laced with five fours and 12 sixes, ended in defeat but drew widespread praise, including from Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins, who called the teenager his "new favourite player".

"You know how important it was for me. I was just trying to do exactly what I did in practice," said Sooryavanshi. "I was playing with a free flow from the first ball."

The batting prodigy has been in red-hot form in the 2026 IPL, scoring 357 runs at a staggering strike rate of 234.86 across eight matches, including two 15-ball fifties.

His performances have sparked calls for him to be fast-tracked into the senior Indian national team.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Punjab Kings vs Rajasthan Royals (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

CL: PSG vs Bayern Munich (**12:30 am, Wednesday**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

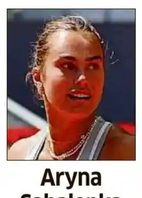
ISL: East Bengal vs Odisha FC (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

BADMINTON

Thomas & Uber Cup: Group Stage (**1:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

Sabalenka soars into quarters

MADRID, AFP: World number one Aryna Sabalenka overcame Naomi Osaka 6-7 (1/7), 6-3, 6-2 in a gripping battle on Monday to reach the Madrid Open quarterfinals.



Aryna Sabalenka

Third seed Coco Gauff was eliminated in a three-set battle with Linda Noskova decided on a final set tie-break.

Sabalenka, who has claimed titles at Miami, Indian Wells and Brisbane this year, was tested by her Japanese opponent in the fourth-round clash but came back from a set and a break down to triumph.

World number three Gauff, who had been dealing with a stomach bug this week, fell to a 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/5) defeat by Noskova.

In the men's third round, Daniil Medvedev, who has reached the quarter-finals in each of the last two years despite not being a fan of clay, beat Nicolai Budkov Kjaer 6-3, 6-2. Casper Ruud eased to a 6-3, 6-1 win over Alejandro Davidovich Fokina to reach the last 16.

Dominant India men storm into quarterfinals

HORSENS (DENMARK), PTI

India sealed a place in the Thomas Cup Finals quarterfinals with a commanding 5-0 sweep of Australia in a Group A tie here on Monday.

India and China occupy the top spots in the group. The 2022 champions had opened with a 4-1 win over Canada, while China blanked Australia 5-0 and beat Canada 4-1 earlier in the day.

The two sides will clash in their final group tie on Wednesday to decide the group topper.

Paris Olympian and Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen set the tone with a 21-14, 21-16 win over Ephraim Stephen Sam to hand India an early lead.

US Open champion Ayush Shetty, who recently finished runner-up at the Badminton Asia Championships, doubled the advantage with a dominant 21-8, 21-6 victory over Shrey Dhand.

India's top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the Asian Games champions, made it 3-0, defeating Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16 to clinch the tie. HS Prannoy, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Championships and Asian Games, extended the lead with a 21-11, 21-17 win over Rishi Honda Boopathy in under 30 minutes.

In the second doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun outplayed Andika Ramadiansyah and Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-12, 21-10 as India completed a flawless outing without dropping a match.

Sindhu BWF role

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has promised to represent the voices of the shuttlers from across the globe in her tenure as Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council member, a rare role for an active player.

One of the most accomplished players in the sport's history, Sindhu has assumed a full voting position on the BWF Council following her election as Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission in December.

After completing the formal vetting process, Sindhu officially entered the BWF Council at the end of 2025.

India's Lakshya Sen scored a comprehensive win over Australia's Ephraim Stephen Sam on Monday. AFP FILE PHOTO

Asian Games set to be held in odd years

The Asian Games could be moved to odd-numbered years starting in 2031 so the event takes place in the 12 months leading into the Olympics, reports say, reshaping the sporting calendar, reports AFP from Hong Kong.

The reported proposal would mean Asia's biggest sporting spectacle doubling up as qualifying and preparation for the Olympics, giving it added significance.

The Asian Games in Japan this September-October will be unchanged but the 2030 edition in Doha would be pushed back a year, after which the Games will be held every four years as normal but in odd years instead of even ones.

The executive board of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has approved the idea and there will now be more talks with international sports federations, China's state Xinhua news agency said.

Mirabai to miss Asian Championships

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu is set to miss next month's Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from May 12 to 17, owing to a shoulder injury.

Mirabai, who is set to switch to a higher Olympic weight category post the Asian Games, sustained the injury during the National Championships in Modinagar, UP last February. The 31-year-old also lifted her personal best of 89kg in snatch at the same tournament while also improving the overall lift by 6kgs to 205 in the 48kg category.

India's head coach Vijay Sharma told *DH* that it was a precautionary measure to sit her out of the tournament as the Manipuri will now directly compete at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July-August.

With the continental tournament — which was earlier postponed by a month due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia — missed, Mirabai has now skipped a third consecutive Asian Championships. Her last and only medal at the tournament, a bronze, came in 2020 while she finished sixth in 2023.

She is yet to break the duck at the Asian Games too and this year's edition in Aichi-Nagoya (in August-September) could be her last chance to qualify for the tournament.

As reported by *DH* earlier, Mirabai is also unlikely to compete in two Olympic qualifiers later in the year, including the World Championships in October-November, as the window is too small for the weightlifter to bulk up for the 53kg category.

To recall, the International Weightlifting Federation last year announced 53kg as the minimum weight class in the women's category, forcing the Indian to switch her plans to the higher weight class.

India batters flop again as SA bag series 4-1

BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA), PTI: India suffered yet another batting meltdown in a modest 156-run chase as South Africa rode on skipper Laura Wolvaardt's sublime unbeaten 92 to clinch a convincing 23-run win and seal the Women's T20I series 4-1 in a dominant fashion.

Wolvaardt, who has already notched up two fifties and a century in the series, struck 11 fours and two sixes in her 56-ball knock, carrying her bat despite wickets falling around her. Her late flourish -- two sixes off the final two balls -- lifted South Africa past the 150-mark after a middle-overs slowdown.

In reply, India were restricted to 132 for eight, with their experienced batters once again failing to deliver.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur laboured to 22 off 28 balls.

Brief scores: South Africa: 155/6 in 20 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 92; Renuka Singh 2-21, Shree Charani 2-22, Deepti Sharma 2-37) bt India: 132/8 in 20 overs (Bharti Fulmali 40, Richa Ghosh 25; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-15, Nadine de Klerk 2-26) by 23 runs.

Series: South Africa win series 4-1.

PoM & PoS: Laura Wolvaardt.

PPC's Narrun, Daiwik star in dominating win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Narrun continued his red-hot scoring spree and notched up 26 points while Daiwik added 17 as PPC brushed aside Kolar 68-39 in the State Sub-junior (U-13) Basketball Championship for boys and girls for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Monday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: Boys: PPC: 68 (Narrun 26, Daiwik 17) bt Kolar: 39 (Pallav 13). HT: 19-20; Vimanapura: 57 (Rakshith 16) bt Young Orions: 37 (Arnav 10, Karthik 9). HT: 24-18; Beagles: 53 (Dishant 12, Nikhil 12) bt Dharwad A: 48 (Nagaraj 14, Samarth 13). HT: 19-6; MNK Rao: 54 (Padmanbha 8) bt Lakshyan: 11 (Hanumanth 10). HT: 28-4; MCHS: 63 (Dhairya 10) bt Mysore B: 17 (Rishaan 7). HT: 41-5; Yelahanka BC: 64 (Arnav 11, Showrya 10) bt Hassan: 24 (Pranav 14). HT: 40-2; Mounts BC: 48 (Jithin 16, Thimmaiah 16) bt Kolar: 46 (Nehal 16, Manish 10). HT: 17-25.
Girls: Bangalore Sporting: 39 (Deethali 10, Sagarika 8) bt Kalburgi: 10 (Anvita 10). HT: 22-6; Mounts BC: 58 (Niya 14, Devishi 8, Kenisha 8) bt Dharwad A: 26 (Shravani 9). HT: 48-18; BCYA: 44 (Niharika 13, Sanchita 10) bt Halasur BC: 08. HT: 28-2; Beagles 93: (Dia 18, Ayra 17, Anidhya 14) bt Kalburgi: 24 (Sneha 11). HT: 58-16; MCHS: 60 (Swarali 16 Kanira 10) bt Dharwad B: 8 (Samanvitha 7). HT: 24-2; Mysore A: 47 (Niriksha 17 Kushi 12) bt Mandya: 26 (Tejaswini 12). HT: 22-16; Young Orions: 41 (Aaeeisha 10) bt Mysore B: 10. HT:16-7; Hoop-7: 48 (Dhanyashree 21) bt Dharwad A: 13 (Shravani 6). HT: 33-4.

Dean-Gagan finish 48th

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian rally champions Dean Mascarenhas and co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah completed their maiden FIA World Rally Championship at seventh in the WRC3 class debut at the Rally Islas Canarias in Las Palmas, Spain on Sunday.

Driving a Ford Fiesta Rally3, prepared by PH Sport, the Indian duo finished overall 48th and 7th in their class, the WRC3 class.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Bayern Munich bank on Kane's killer touch

German giants take on holders PSG in cracking semifinal tie

Star striker Harry Kane will be looking to create his usual magic when Bayern Munich take on PSG in the Champions League semifinal first leg on Tuesday night. REUTERS

LIVE 12:30 AM, SONY SPORTS

BERLIN, AFP

Having decisively ended his own silverware drought with back-to-back Bundesliga titles, Harry Kane's team-first approach has been key for a Bayern Munich side now chasing club football's biggest prize.

Whoever makes it through Bayern's Champions League semifinal against holders Paris Saint-Germain, with the first leg in the French capital on Tuesday, will be the favourites for the final in Budapest in May.

Last season's Bundesliga title was Kane's maiden team trophy, at the age of 31. Having added another league crown this season, Bayern's habit of hoovering up trophies is already rubbing off on the England captain.

As always, Kane's individual statistics this year have been stunning. The former Tottenham forward has 53 goals in 45 games in all competitions, the most by an Englishman in any league in almost a century.

And this time around, Kane's goals have come at crucial moments of big games.

Against Real in Madrid, his long-range strike proved to be the winner.

In the second leg, Kane's first-half goal brought Bayern level on the night and put them ahead in a quarterfinal tie which was in danger of getting away from them.

Kane left England 47 goals shy of Alan Shearer's Premier League scoring record, with some commentators wondering why he would leave with the mark in sight.

But while Kane developed a reputation at Spurs for stacking up individual records rather than team honours, in hindsight the striker's pursuit of goals was a clear example of his team focus.

Since moving to Bayern, a club with quality across the pitch and a number of threats, Kane often drops to help in the build-up, sometimes deep into midfield.

Kane's willingness to sacrifice individual honours for team objectives has never been more evident than in recent weeks, when Bayern had the league largely wrapped up and needed to focus on Europe.

After Bayern beat Dortmund in February, Kane had scored four consecutive braces. With 30 goals in 24 games, he looked on course for Robert Lewandowski's single season record of 41 goals.

Agniputhra make light work of visiting Techtro

BENGALURU, DHNS: FC Agniputhra got their maiden I-League 3 campaign up and running with a comfortable 3-0 win over Himachal Pradesh's Techtro Swades United FC at the Centre of Sports Excellence here on Monday.

Agniputhra featured three Bengaluru boys in Yohann Victor Britto, Godwin Johnson and Gautam Rajesh and it was forward Yohann, who on the counter, nudged it past TSUFC goalkeeper to hand Agniputhra a sixth-minute lead.

The hosts then extended their advantage two minutes before the half-time whistle as Senthamil S (43rd) put it past the net after the goalkeeper saved a shot on target but had failed to gather the ball.

Techtro Swades United FC's defence had another moment of miscommunication, and Player of the Match Godwin managed to poke the ball home in the 59th minute to wrap up three points in Agniputhra's first-ever appearance in I League 3.

Agniputhra will next take on Banaras' Baghpat FC on May 1.

Result: Agniputhra: 3 (Yohann Victor Britto 6th, Senthamil S 43rd, Godwin Johnson 59th) bt Techtro Swades United FC: 0.

SCB, FCBU suffer identical defeats

BENGALURU, DHNS

Both SC Bengaluru and FC Bengaluru United slumped to identical 0-1 defeats in their respective I-League 2 matches played at different venues on Monday.

SCB, playing hosts to Assam side Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC at Dravid-Padukone CoE here, failed to grab multiple openings after going down early to a goal by Kevisanyu Peseyie (9th minute).

The Karbi Anglong forward utilised the space on offer during a counter-attack while goalkeeper could do little to stop the powerful strike.

Mohanraj Nallappan-coached Bengaluru United, on the other hand, travelled to the national capital to go down to Sudeva Delhi FC following a second-half goal by Harmanpreet Singh (51st) at the Sudeva Residential Academy.

This was the second defeat of the season for FCBU, who remained third with eight points in five matches, and are ahead on goal difference to Karbi Anglong.

M Govindaraju-coached SCB (5 points from 5), on the other hand, suffered consecutive defeats and have slumped to seventh spot on the table and are a point above bottom-placed NEROCA FC.

SCB will travel to Delhi for their next match against Sudeva on May 3 while FCBU will host Delhi FC on the same day.

Results: SCB: 0 lt to KAMS: 1 (Kevisanyu Peseyie 9th); SDFC: 1 (Harmanpreet Singh 51st) bt FCBU: 0.

India's Johann scripts history

Johann Emmanuel

DOHA, PTI: India's Johann Emmanuel, astride a Kawasaki ZX-6, scripted history by becoming the first from his country to win the coveted Qatar Superstock 600 Championship (QSTK) by winning both the races in the postponed final round in Doha on Friday to provide a grand climax to his debut season in this class.

The 19-year-old Chennai-based Johann, trailing championship leader Marton Belleli from Hungary by nine points going into the weekend's double-header, needed to win both races to seal the title and he delivered in a stunning fashion.

Qualifying second, Johann, won both races, withstanding immense pressure to clinch the championship with a 21-point advantage. He finished the season with six wins out of 10 races, having endured a 200 Kmph crash and three retirements due to mechanical issues.

"It's an incredible feeling to secure my first international title in my debut season on a 600cc machine. I was thrilled after the race. Every bit of hard work and sacrifice was worth it. But this is just the beginning, and there's still a long way ahead," Johann said.

Johann's journey to the title was far from straightforward. An early-season crash at 200 kmph could have derailed his campaign, but instead, it became a turning point.

Siddharth Parikh. FILE PHOTO

Parikh rallies to oust Sheehan in pre-quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS

India's Siddharth Parikh rallied splendidly to put it across fourth-seeded Peter Sheehan in the pre-quarterfinals of the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Carlow, Ireland on Monday.

The 45-year-old Mumbaikar's come-from-behind 575-508 victory set up a quarterfinal meeting with fifth seed Robert Hall later in the day.

Hall outclassed former champion Mike Russell 882-258 at an adjacent table.

Down 331-477 with about 35 minutes remaining, Parikh found an opening he was looking for.

Results (Indians unless mentioned):

Pre-quarterfinals: Pankaj Advani: 951 (192, 56, 143, 139, 73, 105, 52) bt Rafath Habib: 283 (50); Martin Goodwill (Eng): 497 (176, 95) bt Alok Kumar: 319 (68); Robert Hall (Eng): 882 (75, 221, 82, 65, 224, 114) bt Mike Russell (Eng): 258 (93, 66); Siddharth Parikh: 575 (83, 71, 126, 82) bt Peter Sheehan (Eng): 508 (98, 158, 54, 91); Sourav Kothari: 701 (176, 198, 175) bt Dhruv Sitwala: 211 (55, 71); Shrikrishna S: 604 (140, 206, 81, 85) bt Peter Gilchrist (Sin): 357 (90, 113, 111); Dhvaj Haria: 745 (103, 82, 84, 122, 171) bt Rupesh Shah: 293 (61, 88, 61); David Causier (Eng): 1517 (611, 93, 71, 88, 57, 558) bt Baek Minhu (Kor): 158 (84).
League: Group C: Sitwala 437 (147, 81) bt Alok 311 (88, 54). **Group D:** Causier (Eng): 647 (97, 63, 92, 60, 80) bt Habib: 293 (79). **Group E:** Hall: 543 (59, 78, 189, 61) bt Rupesh: 218 (81); Rishabh Thakkar: 687 (58, 98, 89, 148, 72, 60) bt Peter Tankard (Aus): 116. **Group F:** Sheehan: 479 (65, 122, 114) bt Shrikrishna: 399 (101, 103); Jagadesh Bhuvaneswaran: 658 (99, 90, 74, 151, 56) bt Joe Doheny (Ire): 131. **Group G:** Dhvaj: 436 (96, 182, 74) bt Russell: 393 (178, 59, 113); Aidan Murray (Ire): 294 (100, 60) bt Srinu Katipogu: 259 (79, 51). **Group H:** Gilchrist (Sin): 455 (175, 156) bt Parikh: 335 (73, 80, 114).

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